

Shanahan drops bid to lead Pentagon, citing 'painful' past

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan stepped down Tuesday before his formal nomination ever went to the Senate, citing a "painful" family situation that would hurt his children and reopen "wounds we have worked years to heal." President Donald Trump announced Shanahan's departure in a tweet, and said Army Secretary Mark Esper would be the new acting Pentagon chief.

"I believe my continuing in the confirmation process would force my three children to relive a traumatic chapter in our family's life and reopen wounds we have worked years to heal," Shanahan said in a statement. "Ultimately, their safety and well-being is my highest priority." His withdrawal from one of the most critical positions in the government comes at a time of escalating tensions in the Middle East, a day after the U.S. authorized sending additional troops to the region, and after months of unexplained delays in the confirmation process.

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In this Feb. 14, 2019 file photo, acting Secretary of Defense Patrick Shanahan speaks about the situation in the Persian Gulf region during a meeting with Portuguese Minister of National Defense Joao Cravinho, at the Pentagon.

Associated Press



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Shanahan drops bid to lead Pentagon, citing 'painful' past

Continued from Front

The acting defense secretary did not provide specifics, but court records show a volatile family history around the time of his 2011 divorce. The couple had been married since 1986. His ex-wife, Kimberley, was arrested several times on charges that included burglary, property damage and assault. The assault charge was a misdemeanor for domestic violence in August 2010 when, according to police records, she hit Shanahan a number of times, giving him a bloody nose and black eye. The police report said she was not injured, and he was not charged.

There was also a separate November 2011 incident in which the couple's son, who was 17 at the time, struck his mother with a baseball bat in the home where he lived with her in Sarasota, Florida, according to court records. He pleaded guilty to battery and was sentenced to four years of probation.

In an interview with The Washington Post shortly

before Trump announced that Shanahan was withdrawing his nomination, Shanahan spoke about the circumstances surrounding

good families ... and this is a tragedy, really," Shanahan told the Post.

In his statement, Shanahan said he asked to be with-

letter to Trump outlining a list of foreign policy differences and a warning that the administration should not allow relations with al-

an obligation to reveal it himself. This is potentially a violation of law."

Trump defended the vetting process, calling it "great," and said the Shanahan issues were "very unfortunate," and they "came up a little bit over the last short period of time."

Sen. James Inhofe, the Oklahoma Republican who is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said Trump called him about Shanahan on Tuesday. The president didn't offer any specifics, Inhofe said, but mentioned "allegations that would be very uncomfortable and really not worth making sacrifices for."

Shanahan, a former Boeing executive, has been leading the Pentagon as acting secretary since Jan. 1, a highly unusual arrangement for arguably the most sensitive Cabinet position.

His prospects for confirmation have been spotty due in large part to questions about his lengthy work as former Boeing executive and persistent questions about possible conflicts of interest.

The Defense Department's Inspector General cleared Shanahan of any wrongdoing in connection with accusations he had shown favoritism toward Boeing during his time as deputy defense secretary, while disparaging Boeing competitors.

In Shanahan's tenure at the department he's had to deal with a wide array of international hotspots, ranging from missile launches by North Korea to the sudden shift of military ships and aircraft to the Middle East to deal with potential threats from Iran.

Shanahan, 56, had extensive experience in the defense industry but little in government. In more than six months as the acting secretary, he emphasized a shift from the resources and tactics required to fight small wars against extremist groups to what Shanahan called "great power" competition with China and Russia. □



In this April 2, 2019, file photo, Secretary of the Army Mark Esper speaks during a House Armed Services Committee budget hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington. President Donald Trump on June 18, named Esper as acting Defense Secretary.

Associated Press

his 2011 divorce and said he didn't want to drag his children through the experience again.

"Bad things can happen to

drawn from the nomination process and would work on an "appropriate transition." The Pentagon, in a statement, said Esper will take over the job at midnight Sunday. Esper and Shanahan met at length Tuesday to begin transition planning.

In his tweet, Trump simply said Shanahan had done "a wonderful job" but would step aside to "devote more time to his family." Later, Trump told reporters at the White House that he heard about the problems for the first time Monday.

"I didn't ask him to withdraw, but he walked in this morning," said Trump. "He said it's going to be a rough time for him because of obviously what happened." In noting Esper's move, Trump added, "I know Mark, and have no doubt he will do a fantastic job!" He said it's "most likely" he will nominate Esper for the job "pretty soon."

The post atop the Pentagon has not been filled permanently since retired Gen. James Mattis abruptly stepped down in December after delivering a blunt

lies to fray.

Shanahan was put in place as acting secretary, but it wasn't until May that Trump announced he would nominate Shanahan. That formal nomination has never come, inexplicably delaying the Senate process.

On Capitol Hill, the Shanahan news was met with mixed reactions.

Top Democrats said his sudden withdrawal underscores the shortcomings of White House vetting for key Trump administration jobs. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said Tuesday that "this Shanahan fiasco" shows that the administration's national security policy is "a shambles."

Senators said they were largely unaware of allegations involving Shanahan's family situation when he was confirmed as deputy defense secretary in 2017.

Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal raised the possibility that Shanahan deliberately concealed the domestic problems, and he called for an investigation by the Defense Department's inspector general. Shanahan, he said, "had

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33K pounds of cocaine seized in one of biggest U.S. drug busts



Authorities search a container along the Delaware River in Philadelphia, Tuesday, June 18, 2019. U.S. authorities have seized more than \$1 billion worth of cocaine from a ship at a Philadelphia port, calling it one of the largest drug busts in American history.

Associated Press

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM and
MATT ROURKE
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — U.S. authorities seized 33,000 pounds, or 15,000 kilograms, of cocaine from a ship at Philadelphia's port in what they described as one of the largest drug busts in American history. They said the haul could have been worth more than \$1 billion on the street. The U.S. attorney's office in Philadelphia announced the massive bust on Twitter on Tuesday afternoon, saying that law enforcement agents found the cocaine on a ship at the Packer Marine Terminal. Two members of the crew were arrested and face federal charges. Agents with dogs swarmed the colossal ship Tuesday afternoon, including one officer who could be seen climbing into the back of a large red container on wheels. Court documents said the bust began Monday.

An affidavit alleged that crew members helped load the cocaine onto the MSC Gayane while it was at sea off the west coast of South America. Citing an interview with one of the crew members, authorities said a total of 14 boats approached the vessel on two separate occasions during its voyage. Several crew members allegedly helped transfer bales of cocaine.

The ship's second mate, Ivan Durasevic, and another crew member, Fonofavae Tiasage, were charged with conspiracy to possess cocaine aboard a ship. An online court docket did not list attorneys for the defendants. It wasn't clear whether other crew members would face charges. The drug seizure is the latest in a series of large cocaine busts along the East Coast. In a March bust in Philadelphia, drug dogs sniffed out 1,185 pounds (538 kilograms) of cocaine worth

about \$38 million — at that time the city's largest seizure of the drug in more than two decades.

In February, customs agents seized 3,200 pounds (1,451 kilograms) at the Port of New York and New Jer-

sey with a street value estimated at \$77 million. That was the largest cocaine bust at the ports since 1994. Online ship trackers said the vessel detained in Philadelphia sails under the flag of Liberia and arrived

in Philadelphia after 5 a.m. Monday.

The ship's previous ports of call were the Bahamas on June 13, Panama on June 9, Peru on May 24 and Colombia on May 19, records show. □



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Senate leaders agree on measure to care for refugees

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top Republican and Democrat on a key Senate panel

have agreed on a \$4.6 billion measure to house and care for immigrant refugees flocking across the U.S.-Mexico border — a long-delayed step toward averting a humanitarian tragedy at overcrowded and inadequate federal facilities in the southwest.

Sens. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., and Richard Shelby, R-Ala., will unveil the measure at an Appropriations Committee session Wednesday, aides to the duo said.

A bipartisan vote is expected and both sides hope the measure can pass both chambers next week, just in time to replenish federal humanitarian aid coffers before they run completely dry.

The legislation comes as record numbers of migrants are traveling to the border. "This is a humanitarian crisis of gargantuan proportions.

It needs to be dealt with and I hope we're going to see a sign of bipartisan cooperation in the Appropriations Committee," said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Meanwhile, top-level negotiations over paying the country's bills and funding about \$1.3 trillion in agency budgets are set to reconvene Wednesday, in an effort to head off a financial train wreck when a series of deadlines hit this fall.

The bipartisan budget talks are aimed at preventing automatic spending cuts threatening the top priorities of both Democrats and Republicans.

McConnell and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are taking the lead, along with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Mick Mul-

vaney, President Donald Trump's chief of staff. Wednesday afternoon's talks — on double-bar-

Pentagon request. Republicans have been exhibiting divisions among themselves, with pragma-

other round of automatic cuts to government spending called sequestration would strike early next year,

tumult is a Wednesday floor vote on a \$1 trillion House spending bill that sets out a marker by Democrats for the upcoming negotiations of the line-by-line spending bills required to fund the government.

The Senate has yet to begin its painstaking work on the legislation since McConnell and Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., are seeking an overall broad agreement on the "top line" figures for both the Pentagon and domestic programs.

The House bill blends military spending dear to Republicans with education, health, and energy and water programs that enjoy bipartisan support. But the measure far exceeds Trump's budget request for domestic programs, attracting a White House veto threat, and contains policy "riders" related to abortion and other hot-button issues that will drive away any potential GOP support, though Democrats sidestepped a potentially divisive battle over taxpayer-financed abortion.

Action on the measure comes as Democrats have been struggling to get their message out above the political din of Trump's Washington.

The bill wraps four of the 12 annual spending measures into one, and Democrats are boasting of gains for head start, health research, and fighting the opioid epidemic, among the myriad programs covered by the measure.

It also contains provisions to block Trump from reassigning military appropriations to fund his border wall, and contains significantly more money for family planning, pre-school education and child care, and research into dangerous diseases. □



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., joined by his GOP leadership team, answers questions on Iran and the withdrawal of acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan, during a news conference at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

Associated Press

relied legislation to set new "caps" on spending accounts controlled by Congress and also increase the government's so-called debt limit — are intended to set a more orderly fiscal agenda that would permit relatively routine passage of both spending bills and drama-free consideration of the debt limit legislation, required this fall to avert a market-rattling default on U.S. obligations like bond payments.

It won't be easy. An early burst of optimism after an initial round of meetings late month has faded.

Democrats are moving ahead with legislation — also slated to pass on Wednesday — that spends way more on domestic programs than Trump has requested, while curbing his

tists like McConnell, R-Ky., and White House hard liners like Mulvaney, a former tea party congressman, and budget director Russell Vought struggling to get on the same page.

Trump hasn't displayed much interest in the talks, which come six months after he started a 35-day partial government shutdown following lawmakers rebuffing his border wall demands.

McConnell is also a leading force in the budget and debt talks. House Democrats are going ahead with spending bills, but all sides are working on a separate track to strike a deal on the overall amount of money to be allocated for defense and nondefense appropriations this year.

Without an agreement, an-

cutting \$70 billion from current levels for the military and another \$55 billion from nondefense programs.

The muddled picture has sparked concerns of another government shutdown, the return of an automatic \$125 billion in spending cuts to the Pentagon and domestic agencies, and a first-ever default on U.S. government obligations like interest payments.

"Our guys are going to have to be flexible going in, the president's going to have to be flexible if he wants to get his defense number, and obviously he's going to have to work with the Democrats on some of things they want to get done," said No. 2 Senate Republicans John Thune of South Dakota.

Largely unnoticed amid the

San Francisco moves closer to nation's 1st e-cigarette ban

By SAMANTHA MALDONADO

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

San Francisco supervisors moved a step closer Tuesday to becoming the first city in the U.S. to ban all sales of electronic cigarettes to crack down on youth vaping.

In a unanimous vote, supervisors approved a ban on the sale and distribution of e-cigarettes.

They also endorsed a ban on manufacturing of e-cigarettes on city property.

The measures will require a subsequent vote before becoming law.

"We spent the '90s battling big tobacco, and now we see its new form in e-cigarettes," Supervisor Shamann Walton said.

The supervisors acknowledged that the legislation would not entirely prevent youth vaping, but they hoped it would be a start.

"This is about thinking about the next generation of users and thinking about protecting the overall health and sending a message to the rest of the state and the country: Follow our lead," Supervisor Ahsha Safai said.

City Attorney Dennis Herrera said young people "have almost indiscriminate access to a product that shouldn't even be on the market."

Because the Food and Drug Administration has not yet completed a study to assess the public health consequences of e-cigarettes and approved or rejected them, he said, "it's unfortunately falling to states and localities to step into the breach."

Most experts agree that e-cigarettes are less harmful than the paper-and-tobacco variety because they do not produce all the cancer-causing by-products found in cigarette smoke.

But researchers say they are only beginning to understand the risks of e-cigarettes, which they think may damage the lungs and blood vessels.

Since 2014, e-cigarettes have been the most commonly used tobacco prod-



In this Monday, June 17, 2019, photo, Jacky Chan, 23, takes a vaping break from his job at a smoke shop in San Francisco.

uct among young people in the country. Last year, 1 in 5 U.S. high school students reported vaping in the previous month, according to a government survey.

FDA spokesman Michael Felberbaum said in a statement that the agency will continue to fight e-cigarette use, including preventing youth access to the products, acting against manufacturers and retailers who illegally market or sell the products to minors and educating young people about health risks.

Leading San Francisco-based e-cigarette company Juul frames vaping as a healthier alternative to smoking tobacco.

Juul has said it has taken steps to deter children from using its products.

The company said in a statement that it has made its online age-verification process more robust and shut down its Instagram and Facebook accounts to try to discourage vaping by those under 21.

"But the prohibition of va-

por products for all adults in San Francisco will not effectively address underage use and will leave cigarettes on shelves as the only choice for adult smokers, even though they kill 40,000 Californians every year," Juul spokesman Ted Kwong said.

Tuesday's vote also sets the stage for a November ballot fight over e-cigarettes. Juul has already contributed \$500,000 to the Coalition for Reasonable Vaping Regulation, which is set to gather signatures to put an initiative on the issue before voters.

The American Vaping Association opposed San Francisco's proposal as well, saying adult smokers deserve access to less hazardous alternatives.

"Going after youth is a step that you can take before taking these out of the hands of adults," said the association's president, Gregory Conley.

Groups representing small businesses also opposed the measures, which they said could force stores to

already," said Carlos Solórzano, CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco.

Walton said he would establish a working group to support small businesses and address their concerns.

Although San Francisco's ban is unlike any other in the country, the Public Health Law Center at Mitchell Hamline School of Law reports that all but two states have at least one law restricting youth access to e-cigarettes.

City voters last year approved a ban on sales of candy and fruit-flavored tobacco products.

Stanton Glantz, a professor of medicine at the University of California San Francisco Center for Tobacco Control and Research and a supporter of the measures, said e-cigarettes are associated with heart attacks, strokes and lung disease.

The presence of e-cigarettes, he said, has "completely reversed the progress we've made in youth smoking in the last few years." □

Associated Press

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Marijuana use doubles in U.S. pregnant women to 1 in 14

By LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Pot use in pregnancy has doubled among U.S. women and is most common during the first trimester, government research shows.

Overall, 7% of pregnant women, or 1 in 14, said they used marijuana in the past month. That's from a nationally representative health survey in 2016-17 and compares with a little over 3% in 2002-03.

Some studies have linked marijuana use during pregnancy with increased chances of premature birth and low birthweight. Animal studies have linked high doses early in pregnancy with fetal brain abnormalities, but whether typical use in humans poses similar risks is unknown, said Dr. Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

"Because we don't know exactly how harmful it is, it's better to err on the side of caution," said Volkow, one



This Nov. 27, 2015 file photo shows two marijuana buds displayed for a customer in Denver. **Associated Press**

of the authors of the government study. Marijuana use during pregnancy "is not worth the risk," she said Tuesday. The study was presented at a medical meeting Tuesday and published online in the *Journal of the American Medical*

Association. First trimester use jumped from almost 6% to 12%. Many women may have used pot before they learned they were pregnant, or used it to ease morning sickness, although few women said a doctor had recommended it,

Volkow said. Among women who weren't pregnant, the rate of marijuana use increased from almost 7% to nearly 12%, or 1 in 8. The results are based on health surveys involving nearly half a million U.S. women who were

questioned during a period when rising numbers of states legalized marijuana for medical or recreational use. It's legal in 10 states for both uses but remains illegal federally.

A separate study on marijuana use among pregnant Canadian women, published in the same journal, adds to evidence suggesting that pot use in pregnancy may lead to premature birth. A journal editorial notes that like similar previous studies, the Canadian research can't rule out whether other factors that may have contributed.

The editorial warned against relying on imperfect data to make judgments about potential harms from marijuana use and said more rigorous research is needed. Volkow said U.S. government restrictions on marijuana research are "very much an issue" and have hampered efforts to answer fundamental questions about pot use. □

Marijuana industry aims at environmental, ethical goals



In this April 15, 2019, file photo, a vendor makes change for a marijuana customer at Rev-Up a cannabis marketplace in Los Angeles.

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An alliance of large marijuana businesses had a message for the public Tuesday: We're good corporate citizens.

The 45-member Global Cannabis Partnership, which includes Canopy

Associated Press

Growth Corp. and other major companies, issued guidelines aimed at minimizing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting ethical conduct and responsible pot use.

The emerging legal industry is "in a unique position to set a new bar for socially responsible practices," the

group's executive director, Kim Wilson, said in a statement.

As the once-illegal marijuana economy evolves into a multibillion-dollar industry backed by a flood of investment dollars, the guidelines appeared aimed at assuring consumers those companies are operating with their interests in mind, not just focused on the bottom line.

The cannabis marketplace "is Wall Street now," said Adlai Wertman, a professor of social entrepreneurship at the USC Marshall School of Business.

The group is "saying that even though we are Wall Street, we are still aligned with the values our customers have."

And it could have other payoffs.

"Anything the industry does to show responsibility — both as an operator and to their community — is in their benefit," said Adam Spiker, executive director of the Southern California Coalit-

tion, a cannabis industry group.

"Things like this can narrow the gap of trust between industry, community and policy makers. With more trust should come less of a perceived need to over-regulate and over-tax," Spiker added.

The goal of the five-page "social responsibility framework" is for the industry to be recognized for practices in good corporate citizenship. It outlines guiding principles that include transparency and responsibility, such as prohibiting illicit sales to youth.

The group said its members have agreed to adhere to the guidelines that will set "a standard for the new and rapidly growing cannabis industry worldwide."

While light on specifics, the document said members will develop policies to manage greenhouse gas emissions, packaging materials that reduce the consumption of raw materials and follow farming prac-

ties that reduce environmental impacts.

Other guidelines seek to promote responsible use, education and scientific research.

Wertman noted that the guidelines steered around sticky matters like labor practices, and mentioned only lightly a touchstone issue in the industry: repairing the damage from decades of tough marijuana enforcement, even for minor infractions, which hit the black and other minority communities hard.

The guidelines could also help businesses gain mainstream acceptance and shake off a lingering stoner stereotype the industry has sought to escape.

Morgan Fox, a spokesman for the National Cannabis Industry Association, said the industry has an opportunity "to set the standard for corporate responsibility and build an emphasis on ethical environmental, business, and social practices into its foundation." □



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Watchdog: Schools underreporting use of restraint, seclusion

By CAROLYN THOMPSON
Associated Press

A federal watchdog agency said Tuesday that public schools have significantly underreported their use of restraint and seclusion to control students' behavior. The Government Accountability Office detailed reporting errors in which New York City, Philadelphia and other districts entered zeros in the Education Department's Civil Rights Data Collection for 2015-16 when they should have indicated the data was unavailable.

The GAO said seven out of 10 of more than 17,000 U.S. districts reported zero incidents of students being physically restrained or isolated in a separate area. The extreme measures are supposed to be used only when students are likely to hurt themselves or others but have been found to be disproportionately used on students with disabilities and on boys.

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos in January announced an initiative to address the inappropriate use of the measures. She said the Office for Civil Rights would work with the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services to provide "technical assistance and support

to schools, districts, and state education agencies, and strengthen enforcement activities." The GAO said collecting accurate civil rights data is key to enforcing laws that protect students from discrimination on the basis of race, sex or disability.

"Absent reliable and accurate data, neither Education nor the public can know the prevalence of restraint and seclusion in public schools," it said.

Among school systems reporting zero incidents in 2015-16 were 10 of the nation's largest, each with 100,000 or more students. Fairfax County Public Schools in Virginia has since said it did have incidents that year, and reported more than 1,600 in the 2017-18 school year. Only the Hawaii Department of Education said the zeros actually represented zero incidents.

"While it is difficult to know the full extent of underreporting of restraint and seclusion in the CRDC, the fact that only one of the 10 largest districts that reported zeros actually affirmed that it had no incidents calls into question the data showing zero incidents for 70 percent of the nation's public school districts," the GAO report said. □

Hiker rescued from Mt. Washington may have to foot the bill

By MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — An 80-year-old hiker who was rescued trying to reach the summit of Mount Washington could end up footing the bill for the emergency services, New Hampshire officials said Tuesday, amid efforts to raise awareness about the dangers of the popular tourist destination. Authorities may even file criminal charges in the case, after two relatives left James Clark behind, Maj. David Walsh of the state's Fish and Game Department said.

Walsh said he wasn't aware of anyone ever being charged criminally in a case like this, but he could not say what the charges might be or even who might be charged, noting that officials were in the early stages of their consideration.

Clark was found Friday immobile in the fetal position with signs of hypothermia hours after telling his two grandsons to go on without him. Clark was treated at a hospital for non-life-threatening injuries and released Saturday.

"This probably wouldn't have happened," if the group had stayed together, Lt. Mark Ober of Fish and Game said.

Mount Washington is notorious for its erratic weather, particularly its high winds. A 231-mph (371-kph) gust on the 6,288-foot (1,916-meter) mountain in 1934 remains the highest wind speed ever observed by man.

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In this July 27, 2016 file photo, a pair of hikers traverse a trail on Mount Washington, N.H.

Associated Press

Two people who were hiking in the area have died in recent days.

Clark didn't have the right clothing or gear to make the ascent in freezing rain, Ober said. As a result, the agency will likely recommend to the attorney general's office that Clark pay for the cost of his rescue, taking advantage of a law that allows the state to recoup rescue costs when it determines that a person acted negligently.

Fish and Game has recommended that nine people be billed this year and 25 in 2018. Bills can range from hundreds to thousands of dollars, depending on the number of people involved and the length of the search. Ober could not say how much Clark might be charged.

"People think it's a walk in the park," said Ober, noting there have been 150 deaths around Mount Washington since the 1800s.

"They don't understand

that it could be 70 degrees (21 degrees Celsius) at the base and it will be 12 degrees (minus 11 degrees Celsius) with blowing wind and snow potentially at the summit," he continued.

Clark, of Dublin, Ohio, told the New Hampshire Union Leader that he blamed himself for telling his two grandsons to go ahead without him. They ended up reaching the summit and then returning a different way. With no sign of Clark by evening, the pair called search and rescue officers.

When rescuers found Clark on Lion Head Trail, they gave him dry clothes and warmed him up in a sleeping bag before carrying him about 2 miles (3 kilometers) to the nearest road. From there, an ambulance took him to the hospital.

Kevin McNerney, 19, told the newspaper he would understand if his family is billed, saying "there is no price you can put on a human life." □

Boris Johnson builds lead in race to be UK prime minister

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson increased his lead in the race to become Britain's next prime minister Tuesday in a Conservative Party vote that eliminated one of his rivals and enabled upstart candidate Rory Stewart to defy expectations by remaining in the contest.

Johnson, a flamboyant former foreign secretary, won 126 of the 313 votes cast by Conservative lawmakers in their second-round of balloting. The vote left five contenders vying to be the Tory leader who will succeed Theresa May as prime minister, and all but guaranteed Johnson would be one of the two candidates competing in a runoff decided by rank-and-file party members as well as elected politicians. Jeremy Hunt, who followed Johnson as foreign secretary in May's government, had the next-highest number of votes.

Hunt Environment Secretary Michael Gove, Home Secretary Sajid Javid and Stewart all trailed far behind in what is now effectively a race for second place.

Ex-Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab got only 30 votes, three short of the threshold needed to go through to the next round.

After lawmakers' votes were counted, Johnson and the other remaining candidates traded barbs about Brexit and their plans for the economy, the welfare system and the environment in a messy, frac-



British Conservative Party leadership contender Boris Johnson arrives for a live TV debate in central London Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

tious televised debate. Johnson was accused of trying to dodge scrutiny after he skipped an earlier debate and a question session with journalists.

Tory lawmakers will vote again Wednesday and Thursday, eliminating at least one candidate each time. The final two contenders will go to a postal ballot of all 160,000 Conservative Party members nationwide. The winner who will replace May is due to be announced in late July. May stepped down as party leader earlier this month after failing to secure Parliament's approval for her Brexit deal. She is leading the government until her successor is picked.

All the contenders vow they will succeed where May failed and lead Britain out of the European Union, though they differ about how to break the country's Brexit deadlock.

Johnson insists the U.K. must leave the bloc on the rescheduled date of Oct. 31, with or without a divorce deal to smooth the way. He said during the BBC

debate there would be a "catastrophic loss of confidence in politics" if Brexit was delayed any further. The withdrawal, originally set for March 29, was pushed back after May sought two extensions from the EU.

The EU says it won't reopen the Brexit agreement it struck with May's government, which has been rejected three times by Britain's Parliament. Many economists and businesses say a no-deal exit would cause economic turmoil by ripping up the rules that govern trade between Britain and the EU.

Johnson and Javid both said they would opt to leave the EU without an agreement rather than delay Brexit beyond Oct. 31. Gove and Hunt both said they would support another postponement if needed to secure a deal, but only for a short time.

Stewart said "there would never be no-deal" if he were prime minister because it would be too damaging to the economy. While Johnson is odds-on

favorite to become Britain's next leader, some in the party still have doubts about him. He is admired by many Conservatives for his ability to connect with voters, but others mistrust him for his long record of misleading and false statements, verbal blunders and erratic performance in high office.

During the country's 2016 EU membership referendum, Johnson campaigned on the inaccurate claim that Britain sends the EU 350 million pounds (\$444 million) a week. Last year he faced criticism for comparing Muslim women who wear face-covering veils to "letter boxes."

Pressed about his language during Tuesday's debate, he said "insofar as my words have given offense over the last 20 or 30 years ... I am sorry for the offense that they have caused." Hunt and Gove are both considered experienced and competent ministers, but unexciting. Gove seems to have shrugged off the revelation that he used cocaine two decades ago.

Associated Press

Javid, the son of Pakistani immigrants, says he offers a common-man alternative to private school-educated rivals like Johnson and Stewart, although he was a highly paid investment banker before entering politics.

Stewart has the most momentum, almost doubling his first-round tally, while Hunt and Gove barely increased their totals.

Stewart, Britain's minister for international development, calls himself the "anti-Boris," the pragmatist rival to populist Johnson. He has energized the contest with a combination of plain-speaking and quirkiness.

A former diplomat who once walked across Afghanistan and was a deputy provincial governor in Iraq after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, Stewart is also the only contender regularly asked whether he has been a British spy. He denies it — but notes that former spies are barred by law from disclosing their covert pasts.

Stewart claimed to be the only candidate facing up to political reality, arguing the only way to leave the EU was to get Parliament to approve May's unpopular Brexit deal.

"We are in a room with a door, and the door is called Parliament," he said. "And I am the only one trying to find the key to that door. Everybody else is staring at the walls yelling 'Believe in Britain.'"

Retorted Gove: "We've run into that door three times already, Rory. We've got to have a different route out." □

UN launches plan to combat escalating hate speech



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres addresses the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, Friday, June 7, 2019.

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is launching a plan to combat hate speech and counter what he calls "a groundswell of xenophobia, racism and intolerance, violent misogyny, anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hatred" around the world.

The U.N. chief told diplomats at Tuesday's launch that "over the past 75 years, hate speech has been a precursor to atrocity crimes, including genocide, from Rwanda to Bosnia to Cambodia."

But in the digital era, he said, "hate-filled content is reaching new audiences at lightning speed and has been linked with violence and killings from Sri Lanka to New Zealand and the United States."

Guterres said the plan aims to coordinate efforts across the U.N.'s far-flung system to confront hate speech and includes ways to engage governments, business, civil society and others to take action. □

Associated Press

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German govt calls official's killing 'attack on all of us'

By FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — The killing of a politician who supported refugees, allegedly carried out by a man with a record of violent hate crimes, is an "alarm signal" that highlights the threat posed by far-right extremism, Germany's top security official said Tuesday.

The motive of the 45-year-old German man accused in the slaying has yet to be conclusively confirmed, Interior Minister Horst Seehofer said. However, federal prosecutors were put in charge of the case because "there is sufficient evidence for a far-right background to the crime," he said.

"A far-right attack on a leading representative of the state is an alarm signal, and it's directed at all of us," Seehofer said during a news conference in Berlin. Walter Luebcke, 65, a long-time member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right party, was found June 2 outside his home suffering from a short-range pistol shot to the head. Luebcke led a regional government office in the central German city of Kassel.

He was known for a strong stance in favor of the welcoming refugee policy Merkel adopted during an immigration influx in 2015, when hundreds of thousands of people fleeing war and persecution sought shelter in Germany.



In this June 13, 2019 file photo a picture of Walter Luebcke stands behind his coffin during the funeral service in Kassel, Germany.

The suspect detained in Luebcke's death was known to police as a far-right extremist with convictions for violent crimes dating from the late 1980s to 2009, German media reported. They include a 1993 pipe bomb attack on a refugee shelter in Germany's Hesse state. Thomas Haldenwang, the head of Germany's domestic intelligence service BfV, said the suspect hadn't been on the agency's radar for the past decade. He said authorities can't monitor all of Germany's estimated 12,700 violent far-right extremists around the clock.

"Just as we had the category of 'sleepers' with Islamists, we have to consider such a scenario a possibility in the area of right-wing extremism," said Haldenwang.

Germany's top-selling Bild newspaper published a photo of the suspect it said was taken at a 2002 rally of the neo-Nazi NPD party in Kassel. Authorities said it was not clear if the suspect, identified only as Stephan E., was a member of the party.

Seehofer said investigators were trying to determine whether the accused man acted alone or was part of

a group. The suspect actively spread far-right views on social media, according to German news outlets.

Luebcke was a target of online hate comments before and after his killing, behavior Seehofer condemned but refrained from pinning on any person or group.

Fellow politicians and extremism experts have accused the far-right Alternative for Germany party of contributing to a climate of hatred that led to the fatal shooting of a public official. German lawmaker Michael Brand, a member of Merkel's Christian Demo-

cratic Union party, told Deutschlandfunk radio on Tuesday he saw a "direct line" between Luebcke's slaying and the anti-migrant, anti-government positions expressed by some people in Alternative for Germany.

Leaders of the party, known as AfD, condemned the killing and called for a thorough investigation. Alternative for Germany declined to confirm reports Stephan E. made a donation to the party in the past, saying it was bound by data protection and privacy laws.

The slaying evoked memories in Germany of the National Socialist Underground, a neo-Nazi group found responsible for killing 10 people between 2000 and 2007. Most of the NSU victims were immigrants.

Authorities did not connect the killings to the far-right activity until 2011, when two of the group's three core members died after a botched bank robbery.

Eva Hoegl, a lawmaker with the center-left Social Democrats, called on authorities to release long-classified records and take other steps to counter-right extremism that "continues to be played down."

Josef Schuster, head of Germany's Central Council of Jews, said right-wing extremists are increasingly talking about "armed struggle" and cautioned that "this should be taken seriously." □

Associated Press

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Pakistani army helicopter saves 6 climbers hit by avalanche

By MUNIR AHMED

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Pakistani army helicopter rescued on Tuesday four Italian and two Pakistani climbers stranded at an altitude of around 5,300 meters (17,390 feet) in the country's north, after an avalanche struck the team the previous day, a mountaineering worker said. A Pakistani member of the team was killed.

The expedition was hit while descending a peak in the Ishkoman Valley, located in the northern district of Ghizar.

Karrar Haidri, head of Pakistan's Alpine Club, told The Associated Press that the six surviving climbers were taken to a hospital in the nearby town of Gilgit for the treatment of injuries. "Sadly, one Pakistani mountaineer was killed, but six other members of the expedition are being treated at a hospital," he said.



In this photo provided by Gilgit Baltistan regional police department, mountaineers receive initial treatment following their rescue, at a helipad in the town of Imit, Ghizer district of Gilgit Baltistan region, Pakistan, Tuesday, Jun 18, 2019.

"A Pakistan army helicopter was used for this complicated but successful rescue operation, despite the fact that the stranded mountaineers were present at an altitude of around 5,300 meters," he added.

Ashraf Aman, a Pakistani

tour operator who arranged the expedition, confirmed that Pakistan's military had dispatched the helicopter earlier on Tuesday morning to rescue the climbers.

He said the body of the Pakistani mountaineer, Mo-

hammad Iftiaz, would be brought down later. Aman said none of the surviving team had life threatening injuries.

The four Italian climbers involved are expedition leader Tarcisio Bellò, Luca Morellato, David Bergamin

Associated Press

and Tino Toldo.

Bellò said they were "very lucky" that they survived. "I think glacier collapsed and millions tons come down. We were very up at the mountain," he said.

In a separate incident on Monday, two Chinese mountaineers were reported missing in another area in northern Pakistan, said Haidri. He said a rescue mission was planned to find them.

Mountaineers from across the world travel to Pakistan every year to try scaling its high northern mountains. Harsh weather and conditions often prove a test for the most experienced of climbers.

Earlier this year, two European climbers —Italian Daniele Nardi and Briton Tom Ballard — were killed during bad winter weather on Nanga Parbat, which is the world's ninth-tallest mountain at 8,126 meters (26,660 feet). □

Iranian president: Iran isn't seeking war against any nation

By NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran is not seeking to wage war against any nation, the country's president said Tuesday while at the same time stressing that Iranians will withstand mounting U.S. pressure and emerge victorious.

The remarks by President Hassan Rouhani came as Tehran and Washington are edging toward a flash-point after Iran announced it was breaking compliance with the nuclear deal with world powers and the Trump administration or-



Iranian President Hassan Rouhani speaks during a session of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, Friday, June 14, 2019.

Associated Press

dered 1,000 more troops to the Middle East.

"We do not wage war with any nation," Rouhani said, speaking during the inauguration of a new terminal at Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport that will raise its capacity from 8 million to 13 million passengers a year.

"The entire Iranian nation is unanimous in confronting" U.S. pressures, Rouhani said. "The end of this battle will see victory of the Iranian nation."

He added that despite the U.S. withdrawal last year from Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, Iran had remained "loyal to its

commitments, to ... international agreements."

But on Monday, Iran's nuclear agency announced it will surpass the uranium stockpile limits set by its 2015 nuclear deal in the next 10 days, raising pressure on Europeans trying to save the accord a year following the U.S. withdrawal. Hours later, the Pentagon announced it was sending about 1,000 additional American troops to the Middle East to bolster security in the region in the face of what U.S. officials said was a growing threat from Iran. □



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Kazakhstan updates tally of protest arrests to nearly 4,000

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Police in Kazakhstan arrested nearly 4,000 people during protests before and after a June 9 presidential election, and 700 were detained for several days, the country's interior minister reported Tuesday.

Protests took place in Kazakhstan on election day and continued for several days over what government critics saw as an orchestrated handover of power in the Central Asian nation. Police dispersed the demonstrations with force. Official arrest figures put the number of protesters held at less than 1,000 before Interior Minister Erlan Turgumbayev gave the updated tally in comments carried by Kazakh media.

At least nine journalists were among those arrested.

An ally of Kazakhstan's first and only president won the election with more than 70 percent of the vote. President Nursultan Nazarbayev resigned in March after holding office for more than 25 years. Kassym-Jomart Tokayev was speaker of the upper house of Kazakhstan's parliament before he became acting president following the surprise resignation. Pyotr Trotsenko, 33, a reporter for the Kazakh-language service of Radio Free Europe, was one of the journalists detained at the election day rallies in the capital, Nur-Sultan, and the city of Almaty.

Police said they did not know the nine were journalists and insisted none had



Kazakh police detain a demonstrator in Almaty, Kazakhstan, Wednesday, June 12, 2019, during protests against presidential elections.

Associated Press

media identification. Trotsenko told a different story. He said officers took hold of his arms when he was in the middle of the crowd and he didn't have the chance to take the press ID out of

his pocket.

"I tried to explain to them that I am a journalist and have a professional camera on me," Trotsenko told The Associated Press. "It was obvious that I was not

just hanging around and taking pictures for fun." Trotsenko said he spent two hours at a police station, where he was questioned about his political views and then allowed to leave without explanation.

As he photographed police arresting more protesters the next day, "one of the officers said that if I won't leave the square, he would strangle me," he said.

Freelance journalist Assem Zhapisheva, 30, said police officers tried to intimidate her, too, asking her at an overcrowded detention center "why I'm writing bad things about Kazakhstan." The shows of public discontent related to the election were rare events for Kazakhstan, where opposition is restricted. □

More than 100 children die in India in encephalitis outbreak



Left wing activists shout slogans as they protest against deaths of more than 100 children due to Encephalitis in the Indian state of Bihar, in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

Associated Press

By INDRAJIT SINGH

Associated Press

PATNA, India (AP) — More than 100 children have died in an encephalitis outbreak in India's eastern state of Bihar, authorities said Tuesday.

Bihar health secretary Sanjay Kumar said 106 children had died and more than 430 others between the ages of 4 and 10 were being treated at hospitals in

Muzaffarpur district, 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of Patna, the state capital.

Despite the deaths, Kumar said the mortality rate among children from encephalitis, which can cause swelling of the brain, a burning fever and vomiting, had dropped to 26.5% from 34% a year ago.

Young children are particularly vulnerable to the disease. □

Venezuela's misery doesn't even spare the dead in Maracaibo

By RODRIGO ABD

Associated Press

MARACAIBO, Venezuela (AP) — Even the dead aren't safe in Maracaibo, a sweltering, suffering city in Venezuela.

Thieves have broken into some of the vaults and coffins in El Cuadrado cemetery since late last year, stealing ornaments and sometimes items from corpses as the country sinks to new depths of deprivation. "Starting eight months ago, they even took the gold teeth of the dead," said José Antonio Ferrer, who is in charge of the cemetery, where a prominent doctor, a university director and other local luminaries are buried.

Much of Venezuela is in a state of decay and abandonment, brought on by shortages of things that people need the most: cash, food, water, medicine, power, gasoline.

Some of the most acute misery plays out every day on the streets of Maracaibo, Venezuela's second-largest city and a hub of the once-booming oil industry. It was here in March that residents, seemingly driven to desperation by nationwide power blackouts, looted and destroyed hundreds of buildings and businesses. Authorities blamed criminals for the rampage,



Pillaged vaults stand inside Cuadrado cemetery in Maracaibo, Venezuela, May 16, 2019.

Associated Press

which was of a kind that didn't happen elsewhere in Venezuela and only quickened the city's descent.

The destruction in Maracaibo, where blackouts were the norm long before March, defied easy understanding. The fittings of a hotel were torn out or just torn to shreds, leaving the structure littered with debris in an image reminiscent of wartime or the aftermath of a natural disaster.

Maracaibo's mood today is less furious, more exhausted. Many who have the means leave, joining an exodus of more than 4 million

Venezuelans who have left the country in recent years. The city in northwestern Venezuela is close to the border with Colombia, host to more than one-quarter of the migrants.

The opposition blames Venezuela's misery on misguided economic policies, mismanagement and corruption by the socialist administration installed by the late Hugo Chavez. President Nicolás Maduro, like Chavez, says the troubles are the result of what he calls an economic war being waged on the country by the United States, which

along with about four dozen other nations contends that Maduro's re-election last year was not legitimate because many strong opposition candidates couldn't run.

As in other cities, weary drivers nap on top of cars as they wait for scarce gasoline in long lines at service stations. "Operación Libertad" (Freedom Operation) was scrawled in white on the back window of one taxi, a reference to opposition leader Juan Guaidó's campaign to topple Maduro.

Guaidó visited Maracaibo,

an opposition stronghold of 1.5 million people, in April. He was forced to take a boat across Lake Maracaibo to dodge police roadblocks and reach throngs of supporters waiting to hear him speak.

As the political standoff drags on, so does life in Maracaibo.

Some people sift through trash, scavenge for food or hastily fill up buckets when a water truck makes a neighborhood stop. A fisherman makes a catch. A vendor in a market hauls a side of meat — he'll have to sell it quickly, since perishables go bad quickly without refrigeration in Maracaibo's suffocating temperatures.

Gushing oil wells that helped make a nation with the world's largest oil reserves flush with cash have given way to broken-down oil platforms that sit idle as nearby shores are black with oozing crude.

There are vestiges of better days or signs of people carrying on, finding a way forward. Waiters in jackets and ties tend the counter in what used to be a revolving restaurant on the waterfront, even if there are hardly any customers. Boys in the street laugh as they play with a toy car. People move supplies on wheelbarrows. □

Brazil's Odebrecht files for bankruptcy protection

By ANNA JEAN KAISER

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht filed for bankruptcy protection Monday to restructure \$13 billion in debt, worn down after spending five years at the center of one of the world's largest corruption investigations. Odebrecht said in a statement that it and its subsidiaries would continue operating normally during the debt restructuring, which is one of the largest ever filed in Brazil.

The company lamented its demise from employing 180,000 people five years ago, to just 48,000 employees, which it called "the



This April 12, 2018 file photo shows the Odebrecht headquarters in São Paulo, Brazil.

Associated Press

consequence of an economic crisis ... the impact on a reputation because of mistakes made, and the difficulty that companies have getting credit and

new contracts after collaborating with the judiciary." The request for bankruptcy protection does not include several Odebrecht subsidiaries like petrochemical

producers Braskem S.A., Odebrecht Engineering and Construction, oil producers Ocyan, Odebrecht Transport S.A., shipmakers Enseanada S.A., Odebrecht Insurance Brokers, the Odebrecht Pension Fund, the Odebrecht Foundation non-profit, and sugar and ethanol producers Atvos Agroindustrial S.A., which already has a separate bankruptcy protection.

Odebrecht has been at the center of Operation Car Wash, the country's largest-ever corruption investigation that revealed a kickback scheme between politicians and construction firms that had become systematic in Brazil.

Odebrecht and other construction companies formed what was essentially a cartel to distribute construction contracts with the government, which would funnel back a percentage into politician's pockets. The company used bribes to secure billions in lucrative government contracts in Brazil and throughout Latin America.

"Once Odebrecht's corruption came to light, the tentacles were so widespread that it was inevitable that this company wouldn't hold itself together," said Monica De Bolle, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. □

LOCAL



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"On our website we upload pictures every 3-4 weeks showing the construction progress to keep our customers informed. Buyers that live abroad cannot easily



stop by to check their investment and with these updates online we at least provide them with the most up to date information. She informs that the clientele is formed by 60 % foreigners and 40 % locals, making Harbour House a great connection between two worlds.

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Bahamian Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace Shines at 2019 Caribavia on SXM



By Anne Salafia

ST. MAARTEN — Journalists, pilots, and movers and shakers of the travel industry gathered to brainstorm at the Caribbean Aviation Meetup on St. Maarten/St. Martin, June 11-13. They came from around the Caribbean, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Canada, France, Florida, New York, and London.

Their focus: increasing air lift into and within the Caribbean. Attendees also explored strategies to overcome obstacles such as high airline taxes and inconvenient, costly transportation between the islands.

The Caribbean Aviation Meetup, aka Caribavia, is a resulted-oriented communication platform for stakeholders in aviation, tourism, and investment industries, according to its website. The conference encourages thinking out of the box, together.

"St. Maarten has a unique opportunity to rewrite its aviation policy and play a more leading role in Caribbean aviation, as we rebuild our airport," said Honorable Stuart Johnson, minister of tourism, economic affairs, transport and telecommunication.

Because the Caribbean depends on tourism, increased air traffic into the region, along with more intra-island flights, would not only benefit the Caribbean economy but also provide

job opportunities for those who might otherwise move away.

Vincent Vanderpool, principal partner of the Bedford Baker Group in Nassau and past minister of tourism and aviation in the Bahamas, kicked off the Meetup. His topic, "Friendly Skies; Liberalizing Airlift in the Caribbean," emphasized the importance of viewing the Caribbean as one entity with team spirit.

"Now, suppose there was a country known as the United States of the Caribbean? What would that country look like?" he asked.

He listed talented African Americans who have left the region and taken their

skills elsewhere. "Look at the individual achievements: From the Bahamas, Sidney Poitier who won the first Oscar for acting, Cardinal Warde, a professor of physics at MIT, from Barbados.... You have Robert Rashford, an aerospace engineer from Jamaica whose patents were used in the fix of the Hubble Space telescope. And have a look at all the Caribbean participants in the Olympics!" Vanderpool-Wallace said. He noted Miss Universe and Miss World contestants and Formula One race car drivers; he mentioned David Ortiz, baseball player from the Dominican Republic.

"You can go on and on," Vanderpool-Wallace said. "There's no question; extraordinary talent comes from this region."

He called their exodus "brain drain."

"The reality is that the Caribbean is among the highest places in the world for emigration of its citizens," he said. "Skilled people are leaving."

"People have a yearning to go somewhere else to express their talent. But, by making it difficult and expensive to go right next door, you force talented people to leave the region," he said.



Again and again, Vanderpool-Wallace drove his point home: The Caribbean must have easier and less expensive intra-island transportation and more attractive employment opportunities.

Islanders often have to fly though Miami in order to reach another Caribbean island. Why should Bahamians have to fly via Florida or sometimes even Toronto to get to a good fare to Barbados?

"We consistently make it difficult for people to move around our region," he said. "The most powerful factors in trade and travel are proximity and facility!"

He noted that Mexico and Canada are America's biggest trading partners, not China. More visitors to Las Vegas and Orlando come from nearby, not afar.

"If the Caribbean is not only the world's most tourism dependent region but also the most aviation de-

pendent, why aren't we making it easier for people to use aviation services?" he asked.

"Proximity matters!" he reiterated.

He suggested that governments lessen taxes on airline tickets thereby attracting more movement into and within the region and allowing for greater hotel occupancy. "When we start talking about taxes for infrastructure, collect the taxes after the customer arrives by maximizing hotel occupancy," Vanderpool-Wallace said.

"Here's another secret: the shorter the length of stay, the more the average person spends," he said.

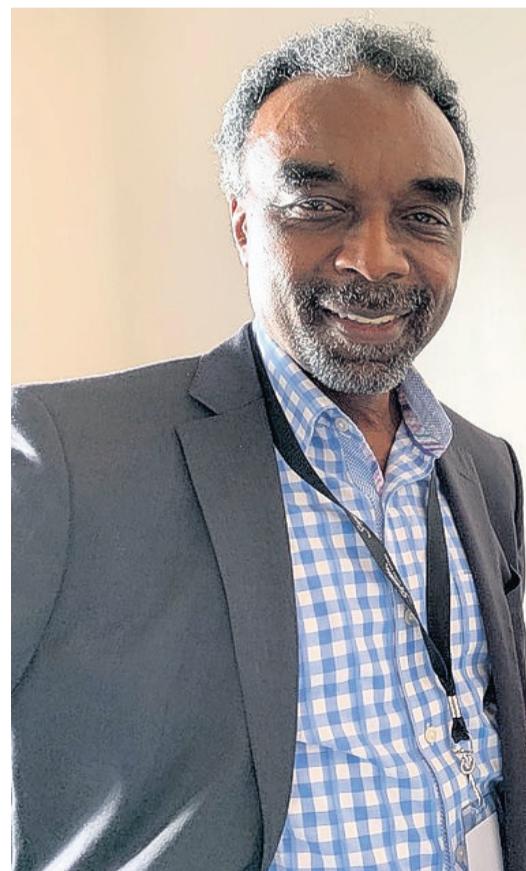
Cdr. Bud Slabbaert of St. Maarten founded the Caribbean Aviation Meetup four years ago and has planned them every year since. He held this year's conference at the Simpson Bay Resort on June 11 and June 13 and included sessions at the Grand Case airport on the French side, June 12. All in all, he organized thirty forums with Q & A sessions after each.

Honoring individuals and companies that have made outstanding contributions to business aviation in the Caribbean, Honorable Stuart Johnson presented the prestigious Sapphire Pegasus awards at the opening night gala.

Dominica and the Bahamas have hosted previous Meetups as has St. Maarten.

Speakers and participants left this fourth annual Caribavia invigorated and resolved to make a difference.

As Vanderpool-Wallace said, paraphrasing Nelson Mandela, "Everything is impossible until it happens." □





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Two Stars of the Dutch Ajax Women's Professional Football Team on Aruba



By Clyde Harms

ORANJESTAD — Kelly Zeeman and Soraya Verhoeve, two stars of the Dutch Ajax women's professional football team are currently spending their vacation in Aruba.

Kelly, an attacking midfielder, is recovering from a surgery to repair a knee that was damaged during a training session in October 2018. "This is a terrible blow for the team", according to Benny Nihom, the team's trainer. "We are talking about months lost." Meanwhile Kelly signed a renewal of her contract with Ajax thru the 2010 - 2021 season.

As member of the Dutch national team that won the EK Europe Cup for the first time ever, Kelly was awarded the honorific Knight in the Order of Oranje Nassau. Kelly has played in 24 international games.

Soraya plays wingtip in the Ajax team. She played for the Dutch national team that won the O19 (<19) EK - Europe Cup in Slovakia in 2016. At the end of that

year Soraya damaged the crotch bands

and was out of action for about nine months. "These were difficult and painful

months for me, physically and psychologically." According to Soraya, nothing is more painful for a professional sportswoman than to have to sit on the sidelines

and watch her team run onto the playing field to compete in an important match.

In a Dutch TV program where she was interviewed last October, Soraya, whose mother is Aruban, mentioned with pride her Aruban heritage and named Aruba as her favorite vacation destination.

Soraya and Kelly are spending two weeks at the home of friends of Soraya's parents.

To keep their muscles in shape, they train six mornings a week at the gym in the Guillermo Prospero Trinidad Stadium, and swim every day at one of the beautiful beaches of Aruba.

Aruba Today wishes Soraya Verhoeve and Kelly Zeeman a pleasant and relaxing vacation on our island. □



Today's Happening



A weekly calendar with a selection of what's going on in Aruba

Wednesday 19

Copa America: Colombia VS Qatar

- Watch the Copa America today on 6 giant screens and 32 HDTV's! Live entertainment of Vallenato, Tambores & Accordion by Vallenato Plus and for each goal of Colombia free shot of aguardiente.
- From 5:30PM
- Double Down Sports Bar & Grill (Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino)
- Facebook: Eagle Aruba Resort & Casino



Thursday 20

Breathtaking Breakfast

- Enjoy a full array of breakfast items and settle into a booth with your loved ones while enjoying the dramatic views of the open kitchen or take in the ocean breeze on the terrace and experience the legendary Ritz-Carlton service. Special offer for residents!
- 6:30AM – NOON
- Solanio Restaurant
- Facebook: The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba

Friday 21

Poetry is a Speaking Painting

- Together with Cosecha and We culture you are invited you to the Art District of San Nicolas for our Pariba di Brug edition Poetry Night. Mingle with the locals and get inspired by art.
- From 6PM
- Cosecha, San Nicolas
- Facebook: Basha Foundation



Saturday 22

International Yoga Day

- Come celebrate yoga day and enjoy a wonderful yoga session with local teachers by Island Yoga, Cacao Yoga, Brahma Kumaris, Pulse Aruba, Yogi Vibes Aruba and Qi Gong Aruba. Yoga for kids, yoga for beginners, Qi Yoga, Meditation, Yoga flow & more...bring a towel.
- 5:30PM – 6:30PM
- Eagle Beach, opposite La Quinta Resort
- Facebook: Prana for an enlightened society

Sunday 23

Long table Event

- Dinner is better when we eat together! Experience a unique dinner setup at the longest table on Aruba. Enjoy a 3-course Charity Dinner on L.G. Smith's Boulevard with wine pairing. Dress code: White. Menu to be announced
- 7PM – 10PM
- Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino
- Facebook: Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino and Long Table Aruba



Monday 24

Joy of Aruba

- Joy of Aruba is performed at the Divi Divi Hotel by the Popcorn Dancers, one of Aruba's best Youth Dance Group. The performers will be presenting the most popular folkloric & modern music and dance of the island of Aruba. The Popcorn Dancers are determined to bring pleasure for your eyes, ears, heart & soul.
- 8:30PM-9:30PM
- Divi & Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusives
- Facebook: Popcorn Club & dancers aruba

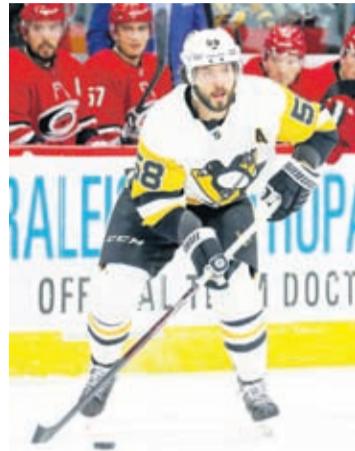


Tuesday 25

Local Art Fair

- A variety of local craftsmen will be present to showcase their products, which will also be available for purchase
- 6PM – 9PM
- Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino
- Facebook: Foundation ArUBA

SPORTS



Pittsburgh Penguins' Kris Letang (58) looks to pass the puck against the Carolina Hurricanes during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, March 19, 2019, in Raleigh, N.C.

Associated Press

Sharks re-signing Karlsson sets table for busy NHL offseason

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

Erik Karlsson had no wanderlust to test the free agent market before re-signing in San Jose.

"I never thought outside that box," Karlsson said. "I'm happy that it didn't get to that." A handful of other teams aren't so happy because the two-time Norris Trophy-winning defenseman would have been the best unrestricted free agent available. Karlsson signing a \$92 million, eight-year contract with the Sharks is the first big off-season development since St. Louis won the Stanley Cup because of all the ramifications it could have on the NHL off-season. With Karlsson off the board, any team looking for a No. 1 defenseman has to either hope veteran Alexander Edler doesn't re-sign with the Canucks and win that bidding war or go the trade route.

STUNG RAYS



Tanaka Ks 10 in 2-hitter, Yankees blank Rays 3-0

New York Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka winds up during the first inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Monday, June 17, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press
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Continued on Page 22

Leonard quiet on future as Raptors celebrate with parade

By IAN HARRISON

Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — Fresh off leading the Toronto Raptors to their first NBA title, Kawhi Leonard received the key to the city at Monday's championship parade and rally. For now, however, the two-way star and two-time NBA Finals MVP isn't saying whether he'll use it to keep a door open or close it behind him and move on.

Leonard spent several days partying with his teammates in Las Vegas and Los Angeles after last Thursday's Game 6 clincher over Golden State, returning to Toronto in time to ride in one of five open-top double-decker buses that carried the Raptors along a crowded parade route. A three-time All-Star and two-time NBA defensive player of the year, Leonard is expected to decline the player option on the final year of his contract and become a free agent. Toronto can offer him a five-year deal worth around \$190 million, one year and some \$50 million more than any other team.

Before stepping on stage Monday for a ceremony in the square outside Toronto's City Hall, Leonard said he hasn't been thinking about his future. Instead, he's trying to extend the celebratory vibe as long as possible. "I'm enjoying this" he said. "It's not time to stress, it's still time to have some fun. I've just been enjoying my experience." After two months of playoff basketball, Leonard doesn't have a lot of time left to be a fun guy — free agency gets underway at 6 p.m. Eastern on June 30.

"I'm going to take the right time," he said. "You don't need too many days to figure it out. We'll see what happens. Once that time comes, then we'll all lay the pros and cons out."

Visibly bothered by soreness during stretches of the Eastern Conference Finals against Milwaukee, Leonard declined to say how much pain he endured en route to winning his second career title. "We're always battling through things,"



Toronto Raptors forward Kawhi Leonard hoists the MVP trophy next to teammates during the team's NBA basketball championship parade in Toronto, Monday, June 17, 2019.

Associated Press

he said. "You know, knee pains, ankles, fingers. Everybody was just grinding it out." Injured for all but nine games in his final season with San Antonio, Leonard

played 60 regular-season games for Toronto and 24 more in the postseason, upping his minutes once April arrived. While winning the Larry O'Brien Trophy was an

obvious success, Leonard said he has enjoyed all aspects of his season north of the border, even the varied Canadian weather.

"It was a good experience, experiencing Mother Nature, all four seasons," he said. "Man, it was a great experience. Everybody off the court was great. The fans, just meeting people in Canada. It's been fun."

Fans chanted "Stay! Stay! Stay!" when Toronto Mayor John Tory presented Leonard with the key.

Later, the festive mood of the event was marred by gunfire. Four people were shot, leading to a stampede. Three people were arrested and two guns were recovered, police said. Leonard is one of three Raptors starters with uncer-

tain futures. Center Marc Gasol also has a player option, while guard Danny Green is a free agent.

Guards Kyle Lowry and Fred VanVleet and forward Serge Ibaka are heading into the final year of their contracts. Ibaka and Leonard have become friends in their time together as teammates. "I've been talking with him a lot during the season and in the playoffs, but after we won, I can see the man is happy," Ibaka said. "That's the most important. We play this sport because we want to enjoy and have fun and be happy and be somewhere people love you. I'm sure he feels that people here love him, and after this moment, that's the most important." □

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Poker Room

Please note: Buy in for \$200 or more & receive extra \$20 bonus, one hour minimum play.

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Yankees beat Rays 3-0, Encarnación hitless in NY debut



New York Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka delivers during the first inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Monday, June 17, 2019, in New York.

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Masahiro Tanaka pitched a two-hitter with 10 strikeouts for his fourth major league shutout, and the New York Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Rays 3-0 on Monday night to increase their slim lead in the AL East.

DJ LeMahieu hit a two-run homer off Yonny Chirinos, and Cameron Maybin (3 for 3) homered in his third consecutive game. That was all a dominant Tanaka (5-5) needed while throwing 76 of 111 pitches for strikes in his seventh complete game since coming over from Japan.

Edwin Encarnación received an enthusiastic ovation in his Yankees debut. Batting fifth as the designated hitter, the veteran slugger went 0 for 4 with a strikeout.

New York moved 1½ games ahead of the second-place Rays.

Tanaka retired his first

nine batters before Austin Meadows singled sharply off the right field wall to start the fourth. A two-out single in the fifth by Willy Adames was Tampa Bay's only other hit. The right-hander walked only one and set down the final 10 Rays batters, striking out six. Chirinos (7-3) gave up five hits in six innings. He struck out six and walked one.

ANGELS 10, BLUE JAYS 5

TORONTO (AP) — Justin Upton homered on the first pitch he saw in his return from the injured list, Mike Trout had a solo homer among his four hits and Los Angeles used a seven-run second inning to beat Toronto.

Shohei Ohtani and Kole Calhoun also connected in the second for the Angels, who have won all four meetings with Toronto this season.

Toronto rookie Cavan Biggio hit two home runs for the second multihomer

game of his brief career. Randal Grichuk hit a two-run homer, but the Blue Jays lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

Trout finished a triple shy of the cycle. He flied out in the first, doubled in the second, singled in the fourth, homered in the sixth, and singled again in the eighth. Luis Garcia opened for the Angels and gave up Biggio's homer in the first. Felix Pena (5-1) followed and allowed four runs and six hits in six-plus innings.

RANGERS 7, INDIANS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Lance Lynn had another quality start, Danny Santana homered and the Texas spoiled Mike Clevinger's return from the injured list. Lynn (8-4) struck out nine without a walk and gave up one run over seven innings.

Santana hit a two-run homer after Willie Calhoun's two-out walk in the fourth. Clevinger was done after consecutive two-out walks in the fifth, with both of those scoring to make it 5-1 when Elvis Andrus doubled on reliever Tyler Clippard's second pitch.

Clevinger (1-1) struck out

seven and walked three in his first start since April 7. Francisco Lindor and Oscar Mercado hit solo homers for Cleveland.

Santana singled in the sixth for his third consecutive multi-hit game.

RED SOX 2, TWINS 0

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Rick Porcello pitched seven shutout innings for Boston to outduel Minnesota ace Jose Berrios.

The Red Sox stretched their winning streak to a season-high six straight games.

Porcello (5-6) allowed only four hits and one walk with eight strikeouts.

Berrios (8-3) struck out 10 batters in a season-most eight innings, with five hits and no walks allowed. An RBI single by J.D. Martinez in the first was the only run he allowed. Xander Bogaerts gave the Red Sox insurance with an RBI double in the ninth.

Ryan Brasier pitched a 1-2-3 inning for his seventh save in 10 attempts.

The Red Sox (40-34) moved a season-high six games above .500 by handing the highest-scoring team in the major leagues its second shutout of the year. The

Twins (47-24) have their fifth two-game losing streak of the season. They've yet to lose three in a row.

ATHLETICS 3, ORIOLES 2

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Mike Fiers pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning and the Oakland took advantage of Baltimore's shoddy defense.

Fiers (7-3) allowed two unearned runs over 6 2/3 innings. He struck out four and walked two.

Oakland took a 3-2 lead in the second on catcher Chance Sisco's two-run throwing error. The A's loaded the bases with no outs when Josh Phegley was hit by a pitch, Marcus Semien walked and Matt Chapman reached on an infield hit. Shortstop Jonathan Villar then fielded Matt Olson's grounder and got the force at home on Phegley, but Sisco threw wide of first trying for a double play, allowing Semien and Chapman to score.

Orioles starter Andrew Cashner (6-3) gave up three runs, one earned, in six innings of four-hit ball.

The last-place Orioles suffered their sixth straight loss. Blake Treinen worked the ninth for his 16th save in 18 chances.

ROYALS 6, MARINERS 4

SEATTLE (AP) — Jorge Soler hit a two-out, two-run homer in the eighth inning off Anthony Bass, and Kansas City snapped a nine-game losing streak to Seattle.

Martin Maldonado added a solo home run in the ninth. Brian Flynn (1-0) got the victory by working two innings of relief, striking out four.

For the third straight start Seattle used an opener before letting Tommy Milone take over and the results continued to be mixed. The Mariners' openers have struggled — this time Taylor Scott, who allowed two runs and recorded two outs — but Milone has thrived. Milone threw 6 1/3 innings, allowing one run and three hits. He struck out six and walked none.

In his three appearances where Seattle has used an opener, Milone has pitched 17 2/3 innings and allowed five earned runs. □



New York Mets relief pitcher Drew Gagnon wipes his face before leaving the dugout to work the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, Monday, June 17, 2019, in Atlanta.

Associated Press

Mets place RHP Familia on IL, ship RHP Gagnon to minors

ATLANTA (AP) — The slumping New York Mets have placed pitcher Jeurys Familia on the 10-day injured list and optioned pitcher Drew Gagnon to Triple-A Syracuse. Familia went on the IL Tuesday with a bone spur in his right shoulder, one day after giving up three runs while recording only one out in a 12-3 loss to the Atlanta Braves. Gagnon followed Familia to the mound and didn't fare much better, surrendering four runs on five hits and three walks in 1 1/3 innings.

Gagnon departed for the minors with a 7.65 ERA in 15 games. Familia has a 7.81 ERA in 29 appearances out of New York's dismal bullpen.

The Mets selected the contract of right-hander Stephen Nogosek from Triple-A and recalled lefty Daniel Zamora from Syracuse.

The moves were announced before the second of three games against the first-place Braves. □

Nationals' Scherzer suffers broken nose during bunting drill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington Nationals pitcher Max Scherzer suffered a broken nose when he took a ball off his face during batting practice on Tuesday. Scherzer was injured while attempting a bunt.

The team said a CT scan was negative.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner was scheduled to start one of the two games of Washington's day-night doubleheader against Philadelphia on Wednesday.

The Nationals said Scherzer's status — as well as the team's pitching plan for the doubleheader — was still to be determined.

Scherzer is 5-5 with a 2.81 ERA. □



San Diego Padres' Manny Machado watches his home run during the third inning of a baseball game against the Milwaukee Brewers, Monday, June 17, 2019, in San Diego.

Associated Press

Machado homers to back Lucchesi in Padres' 2-0 win

By The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Manny Machado homered and doubled a few hours after appealing a one-game suspension handed down by MLB, and left-hander Joey Lucchesi threw seven solid innings in a combined four-hitter as San Diego beat Milwaukee.

Machado was suspended one game and fined for "aggressively arguing and making contact" with plate umpire Bill Welke after being ejected for arguing a called third strike at Colorado on Saturday night. Machado said he didn't make contact with Welke. He can continue to play until there's a final decision. Machado doubled in the first and homered leading off the third.

Lucchesi (6-4) held Milwaukee to three hits while striking out five and walking three. Kirby Yates pitched the ninth for his MLB-leading 25th save.

The only Brewers baserunner to reach second base was Christian Yelich, who doubled with two outs in the sixth.

GIANTS 3, DODGERS 2

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Tyler Beede allowed one run over six innings to earn his first big-league victory and San Francisco defeated first-place Los Angeles in the opener of a four-game set between the NL West

rivals. Beede (1-2) scattered three hits, struck out seven and walked five on 97 pitches.

Closer Will Smith retired the side in the ninth and improved to 19 for 19 in save chances.

Giants first baseman Pablo Sandoval left the game in the fifth after baserunner Max Muncy stepped on his right hand. Sandoval's pinky finger appeared to be cut and bloodied.

Kenta Maeda (7-4) gave up two runs and three hits in five innings. He struck out four and walked two.

BRAVES 12, METS 3

ATLANTA (AP) — Mike Soroka won his eighth straight decision, Ozzie Albies homered and drove in four runs, and surging Atlanta beat New York.

Nick Markakis hit a tiebreaking, two-run single in the fifth inning as the NL East-leading Braves improved to 13-3 in June, best in the majors this month. Atlanta has won 10 of its last 11.

New York lost for the 12th time in 16 games away from Citi Field.

Soroka's winning streak is the longest in the majors by a pitcher under 22 since Dontrelle Willis won the same number for the 2003 Florida Marlins.

Soroka (8-1) gave up three runs, six hits and allowed just his third homer in 12 starts this year, a solo shot

by Robinson Canó in the sixth. He walked one and struck out two in six innings. Wheeler (5-5) allowed five runs — four earned — and 10 hits in six innings.

REDS 3, ASTROS 2

CINCINNATI (AP) — Nick Senzel returned from an eye injury and drove in a pair of runs and Luis Castillo pitched two-hit ball into the seventh inning, leading Cincinnati over Houston.

Castillo (7-1) allowed a pair of singles and walked a career-high six batters, leaving with two on and no outs in the seventh. Shortstop Jose Peraza's throwing error let in a run, and Michael Brantley doubled home another.

Closer Raisel Iglesias escaped an eighth-inning threat when Tony Kemp grounded out with runners on second and third. Manager David Bell made an unorthodox move to finish it, yanking Iglesias and bringing in Michael Lorenzen with a runner aboard to get the last two outs and his third save.

Wade Miley walked three in the fifth inning, setting up a three-run rally. Senzel singled home two, and Eugenio Suárez's single completed the rally. The left-hander gave up four hits and a season-high four walks in 4 1/3 innings around a 52-minute delay due to storms. □



Japan's Naomi Osaka returns to Greece's Maria Sakkari during day four of the Nature Valley Classic at Edgbaston Priory Club, Birmingham, England, Tuesday, June 18, 2019.

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) — A day after saying she was "not really that comfortable" playing on grass, top-ranked Naomi Osaka needed three sets to get past her first-round

opponent at the Birmingham Classic on Tuesday. Osaka lost the second set to Maria Sakkari of Greece before recovering to win 6-1, 4-6, 6-3, for only her 11th tour-level victory on grass.

Top-ranked Osaka gets 1st-round win in Birmingham on grass

"I was kind of screaming on the inside during that entire match," Osaka said in her on-court interview. "I got lucky a little bit, I guess." Osaka has yet to make it past the third round at Wimbledon, which starts on July 1.

"I felt better than the two practice days," Osaka said. "And I feel every day that I play on grass of course I'm going to learn how to play better, but for now I'm just really happy I was able to win that match."

Osaka needs to reach the final in Birmingham to guar-

antee holding on to top spot in the rankings heading into Wimbledon.

"During my entire clay season, it kind of mattered and I think it showed because I was kind of stressed out the entire time," she said. "So, now, I'm just having fun. I'm enjoying it. And I know that if I play well, then I'll be No. 1."

Osaka will next face Yulia Putintseva, who defeated Britain's Harriet Dart 6-1, 6-4. Rain washed out much of the schedule Tuesday, with second-seeded Ashleigh Barty — the newly crowned

French Open champion — among those who will have to try again on Wednesday.

Julia Goerges recovered to defeat Dayana Yastremska 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 while former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko eased past Wimbledon junior champion Iga Swiatek 6-0, 6-2 and will now face Johanna Konta.

Kristyna Pliskova of the Czech Republic set up a first tour-level meeting with her twin sister, Karolina, by defeating Viktoriya Tomova 6-3, 6-4. □

NHL offseason

Continued from Page 18

Salary-cap concerns for San Jose, Washington and a handful of other Cup contenders could open the door to some significant player movement even before free agency starts July 1. "I think there's been more conversation, more communication between the GMs in the last month than maybe ever since I've been a GM," San Jose's Doug Wilson said Monday. "There's so much competition, especially for the high-end player. ... There's a lot of things going on."

Less than 24 hours after Karlsson signed, the dominos began to fall.

Karlsson was linked to the New York Rangers and Tampa Bay Lightning, and it took less than 24 hours for the first direct responses to him re-signing with the Sharks. New York on Monday night acquired defenseman Jacob Trouba from the Jets, and Tampa Bay on Tuesday re-signed veteran Braydon Coburn to a \$3.4 million, two-year deal — cap space it likely would have needed for Karlsson if he was available.

San Jose needed to clear room and did some of that by trading defenseman Justin Braun and his \$3.8 million cap hit to Philadelphia for a 2019 second- and 2020 third-round draft pick. The trade talk is just

heating up ahead of the draft Friday and Saturday in Vancouver. Pittsburgh's Phil Kessel, Evgeni Malkin or Kris Letang and Nashville's P.K. Subban are among the high-profile players who could be on the move.

"There's lots of things on the go," Winnipeg GM Kevin Cheveldayoff said. "It's probably an unprecedented time of conversation."

Many of the moves that come from those conversations will set the table for free agency, where Columbus winger Artemi Panarin, center Matt Duchene and goaltender Sergei Bobrovsky are the top three players available.

Toronto defenseman Jake Gardiner, Dallas winger Mats Zuccarello, Islanders winger Anders Lee, Sharks forward Joe Pavelski, Bruins winger Marcus Johansson and Hurricanes winger Micheal Ferland are among the other possibilities. The salary cap is expected to increase by \$3.5 million to roughly \$83 million, and money will be spent.

"It's a pretty good class this year," Colorado GM Joe Sakic said. "(We) already have targeted players in mind if they become available that we'll want to talk to about joining our club. We see positions of need, of what we're looking to do. There's a few guys we're going to want to talk to if they become available.



In this Feb. 16, 2019, file photo, San Jose Sharks' Erik Karlsson, center, celebrates with Timo Meier, left, and Joe Pavelski after Pavelski scored during the third period of an NHL hockey game against the Vancouver Canucks, in San Jose, Calif.

Associated Press

We'll be more aggressive this year with that, but if it doesn't work out with the players we want to talk to, we're not just going to go spend on anybody."

Sakic's Avalanche have the most projected cap space in the league with \$36 million, according to PuckPedia. The Flyers and

rival New Jersey Devils, New York Rangers and Islanders will also have cap space to burn and a need for an elite defenseman or two. "They're not easy to find," Philadelphia GM Chuck Fletcher said. "Certainly, if we can find a guy that can play in our top four that we'd have the ability to acquire, we'll certainly look at it."

BUT FIRST, THE DRAFT: New Jersey is widely expected to select American center Jack Hughes first overall, leaving Finnish winger Kaapo Kakko for the

Rangers.

"Obviously one team's going to indicate to us exactly how it might go for the rest of the draft," Rangers GM Jeff Gorton said. "I think we're in a good spot. We know that we're going to get a really good player no matter what happens to us."

Chicago picks third and will get a nice boost to aid its turnaround after missing the playoffs the past two seasons.

BITE OUT OF SHARKS: Committing \$11.5 million a year to Karlsson cuts significantly into San Jose's offseason maneuvering with Pavelski, Joe Thornton, Gustav Nyquist and Joonas Donskoi set to be unrestricted free agents and emerging star Timo Meier needing a new contract as a restricted free agent.

"Under a cap system, choices and decisions

need to be made," Wilson said, not ruling out bringing back Pavelski and others. "I don't think anybody should rush to conclusions on anything. There's many ways to accomplish different things."

RUSSIAN PACKAGE DEAL: Panarin and Bobrovsky played together with the Blue Jackets for two seasons and are hitting free agency at the same time. When Panarin switched agents to be represented by Bobrovsky's agent, Paul Theofanous, it raised eyebrows that the Russian countrymen might want to go to the same team. With some creative roster work, the Florida Panthers could be the ideal landing spot for Panarin and Bobrovsky and go from close to the playoffs to real contenders.

CAPITALS CONCERN: Even though Alex Ovechkin and the Capitals are no longer reigning Cup champions, Hagelin insisted he wouldn't have signed an \$11 million, four-year contract with them if he didn't think they could win it again over that time. To do so, GM Brian MacLellan will have to navigate a difficult cap situation around pending free agent winger Brett Connolly and restricted free agent Andre Burakovsky and knowing deals with center Nicklas Backstrom and goaltender Braden Holtby expire next summer. □

IAAF claims Olympic champion Semenya is 'biologically male'

By GERALD IMRAY
AP Sports Writer

The governing body of track argued in court that Olympic champion Caster Semenya is "biologically male" and that is the reason she should reduce her natural testosterone to be allowed to compete in female competitions, according to documents released publicly for the first time on Tuesday and which provide new insight into a bitter legal battle.

The documents released by sport's highest court show that Semenya responded by telling the judges that being described as biologically male "hurts more than I can put in words."

The 28-year-old South African runner said she was unable to express how insulted she felt at the IAAF "telling me that I am not a woman."

The IAAF's stance on Semenya and other female athletes affected by its new testosterone regulations — and Semenya's outrage at the biological male claim — was revealed in a 163-page decision published by the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport. It details parts of the courtroom exchanges that were held behind closed doors when Semenya challenged the IAAF over the highly contentious hormone rules in a five-day hearing in February. CAS had previously released only short excerpts of the final verdict when it was an-



In this Friday, May 3, 2019 file photo, South Africa's Caster Semenya competes in the women's 800-meter final during the Diamond League in Doha, Qatar.

nounced last month. Tuesday's fuller court records, which were still redacted, show the IAAF referred to the two-time Olympic and three-time world champion as one of a number of "biologically male athletes with female gender identities."

Arguing that Semenya and others like her should be subject to its hormone limits to ensure fairness in female competitions, the IAAF stated: "There are some contexts where biology has to trump identity."

Semenya vs. the IAAF is one of the most difficult issues sport has faced.

Semenya was legally identified as female at birth and has identified as female

her whole life. But the IAAF says she is one of a number of female runners in elite athletics who have medical conditions known as "differences of sex development" and who were born with the typical male XY chromosome pattern. That gives them some male biological characteristics, male levels of the hormone testosterone after puberty, and an unfair athletic advantage over other female athletes, the IAAF says. Semenya, who has been fighting the IAAF ever since she was embroiled in a gender verification test at the world championships 10 years ago, says the rules should be discarded and she should be allowed to

run in her natural form. She disputes that she has a significant performance advantage.

The IAAF won the recent case at CAS by a 2-1 majority of the panel of judges, allowing it to implement the testosterone limits.

But in the latest legal twist, Semenya appealed the CAS verdict to Switzerland's supreme court on human rights grounds. She won an interim ruling to temporarily suspend the hormone regulations and the Swiss supreme court will hear her full appeal.

The rules only apply to certain races, from 400 meters to one mile, but they include Semenya's specialist two-lap event.

Associated Press

To be allowed to compete under the rules, Semenya and other affected athletes must medically reduce their testosterone to below a specific threshold set by the IAAF. The IAAF gives three options to do that: A daily contraceptive pill, a monthly hormone-blocking injection, or surgery.

The medical process has been criticized as unethical by experts and Semenya has refused to take medication to alter what she calls her genetic gifts. At least two other runners, Francine Niyonsaba of Burundi and Margaret Wambui of Kenya, who are both Olympic medalists, say they are also affected by the rules. They have also railed against the regulations and criticized the IAAF.

Tuesday's CAS documents shone a light on some of the details of the battle between Semenya and the IAAF over the last decade, much of which Semenya hadn't publicly spoken about despite her story making headline news across the world.

Semenya said in witness statements to the CAS that she had been subjected to gender verification tests that included an intrusive physical examination ordered by South African track authorities in the buildup to the 2009 world championships without being told or understanding the nature of the tests. She was 18 at the time. □

New Jersey may let Golden Nugget casino take some NBA bets

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey lawmakers are considering loosening their sports betting restrictions to allow the owner of the Golden Nugget casino to accept bets on most National Basketball Association teams.

Texas billionaire Tilman Fertitta owns the casino — and also owns the NBA's Houston Rockets.

When New Jersey lawmak-

ers legalized sports betting last year, a provision in the law banned team owners from placing or accepting bets on any games involving their sport.

It was directly aimed at the Golden Nugget and enacted over protests that Nevada regulators allow Fertitta's casinos to take bets on pro basketball games as long as they don't involve the Rockets.

A bill introduced Monday in the New Jersey Legislature

would allow team owners to take bets on games involving other teams in their leagues, but not their own. "New Jersey's sports wagering industry is new and fledgling, but if we take the handcuffs off, it could surpass Nevada as the largest market in the country within a few years," said Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, a northern New Jersey Democrat who co-sponsored the bill. "I don't see the point of leaving out a potential



This Feb. 22, 2019, photo shows the exterior of the Golden Nugget casino in Atlantic City, N.J.

Associated Press

significant participant in this new industry if sufficient regulation and integrity protections are in place. Nevada has long allowed this same arrangement." □



By: Dr. Carlos Viana

After greeting our patient, the first question I ask is: "How did you sleep last night"? Sleep is a basic human need, as important for good health as diet and exercise. Only when we are sound asleep do our bodies repair. When we sleep, our bodies rest but our brains are active, laying the groundwork for healing and productivity. Most people need eight hours of sleep nightly. Unfortunately, for 10% to 25% of us, not being able to get to sleep or insomnia can be a chronic condition. Approximately 98 million dollars a year is spent in the United States alone on over-the-counter sleep aids. Not getting enough restful sleep results in daytime sleepiness, increased accidents, problems concentrating and poor performance on the job and in school, and increased sickness and weight gain.

Lack of sleep seems to be a major stress factor. Regularly catching only a few hours of sleep can hinder metabolism and hormone production in a way that is similar to the effects of aging and the early stages of diabetes. Chronic sleep loss may speed the onset or increase the severity of conditions such as type II diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, and memory loss. Medical researchers have shown that just one week of sleep deprivation altered subject's hormone levels and their capacity to metabolize carbohydrates. Research has shown that in developed countries, the average night's sleep

has grown shorter since the beginning of the century, from 9 hours to 7.5 hours. People who give up sleep to make more time for work and leisure are aging much faster than they should be.

During sleep-deprivation, researchers found, men's blood sugar levels took 40% longer to drop, compared with the natural sleep-recovery period; and their ability to secrete and respond to the hormone insulin, which helps regulate blood sugar, dropped by 30%. These changes reflect the effects of insulin resistance. In addition, the sleep-deprived men had higher nighttime concentrations of the hormone cortisol, which also helps regulate blood sugar, and lower levels of thyroid-stimulating hormone. These raised cortisol levels are often seen in older people, and may be involved in age-related insulin resistance and memory loss.

Many childhood sleep problems are related to irregular sleep habits or to anxiety. Persistent sleep problems may also be symptoms of emotional difficulties. "Separation anxiety" is a developmental landmark for young children. Bedtime is a time of separation. Some children will do all they can to prevent separation at bedtime.

The average woman aged 30-60 sleeps only six hours and forty-one minutes during the work-week. Conditions unique to women, like the menstrual cycle, pregnancy and menopause, can affect how well a woman sleeps. This is because the changing levels of hormones that a woman experiences throughout the month, like estrogen and progesterone, have an impact on sleep. Understanding the effects of these hormones, environmental factors and lifestyle habits can help women enjoy a good night's sleep.

Having trouble getting to sleep? The following ten suggestions might help. 1) Maintain a regular bed and wake time schedule including weekends. 2) Establish a regular, relaxing bedtime routine such as soaking in a hot bath and then reading a book or listening to soothing

music. 3) Create a sleep-conducive environment that is dark, quiet, comfortable and cool. 4) Sleep on a comfortable mattress and pillows. 5) Use your bedroom only for sleep and sex. It is best to take work materials, computers and televisions out of the sleeping environment. 6) Eat a healthy diet and finish eating at least 2-3 hours before your regular bedtime. 7) Exercise regularly. It is best to complete your workout at least a few hours before bedtime. 8) Avoid caffeine (e.g. coffee, tea, and soft drinks, or chocolate) close to bedtime. It can keep you awake. 9) Avoid nicotine (e.g. cigarettes, tobacco products) Used close to bedtime, it can lead to poor sleep. 10) Avoid alcohol close to bedtime. It can lead to disrupted sleep later in the night. 11) Do not run electrical wires under or over your bed.

Pharmaceutical drugs to get to sleep are not a healthy solution. These drugs do not produce the deep curative sleep needed to regain our health and are habit-forming. There are natural food supplements like 5 - HTP and Theanine (from Green Tea) can help considerably if taken with a little natural fruit juice thirty minutes or more before you eat. If your sleep cycle has changed because of travel or work shift change the natural supplement melatonin will help reset your sleep cycle. Acupuncture helps balance your body and encourages restful sleep. A visit to a natural physician could help you determine the cause of your sleep problem and how to best help it. Remember, you cannot restore your health without sound sleep. Get the Point! Getting the right amount of sleep is vital, but just as important is the quality of your sleep. An adequate amount of sleep is as important as an adequate amount of exercise. Most of us do not fully appreciate the value of a full night's sleep. I believe that seven hours is an absolute minimum for most all of us, and most of us would benefit from closer to 9 hours. Ask any woman how much better she feels and looks when getting her full allotment of beauty sleep. □

Health and Beauty Sleep



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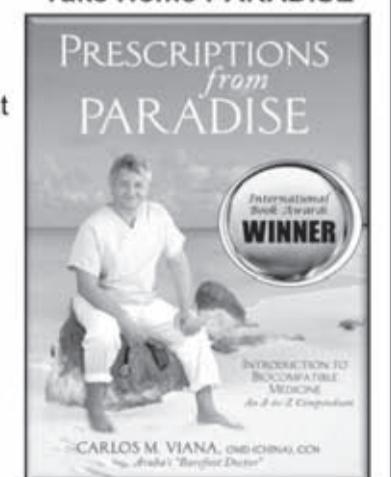
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Charitable giving by individual Americans drops in 2018

By DAVID CRARY

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Charitable giving by individual Americans in 2018 suffered its biggest drop since the Great Recession of 2008-09, in part because of Republican-backed changes in tax policy, according to the latest comprehensive report on Americans' giving patterns.

The Giving USA report, released Tuesday, said individual giving fell by 1.1%, from \$295 billion in 2017 to \$292 billion last year. It ended a four-year streak of increases, and was the largest decline since a 6.1% drop in 2009.

Experts involved with the report said 2018 was a complex year for charitable giving, with a relatively strong economy overall and a volatile stock market. Giving by corporations and foundations increased, so that total giving — including donations from individuals — edged up by 0.7 percent to \$427.7 billion. Among various factors affecting charitable giving was a federal tax policy change that doubled the standard deduction. More than 45 million households itemized deductions in 2016, according to Giving USA, and that number likely dropped sharply in 2018, reducing an incentive for



In this Sept. 6, 2018 file photo, Campaign Chair Larry Silbermann announces a goal of \$8,133,333 at the United Way of the Coastal Empire 2018 Campaign Kick-Off at the Civic Center in Savannah, Ga.

charitable giving.

"Whenever there's a major tax policy change like that, it has an effect," said Rick Dunham, chair of Giving USA Foundation, which publishes the annual report. It is researched and written by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Dunham and other experts said it will likely take another year of analysis, with the help of additional data, to reach a more precise estimate of the tax change's impact.

Stacy Palmer, editor of the Chronicle of Philanthropy, a magazine that covers the nonprofit world, suggested that the changes would have relatively less impact on charities that rely on wealthy donors, and greater impact on social-service providers and other charities that get broad support from middle-class Americans.

"Charities who depend on them are really worried," said Palmer.

United Way, the largest traditional charity in the U.S., is

Associated Press

among the nonprofits relying on middle-class donors. About 90% of its donations come through workplace-based campaigns, according to its chief marketing officer, Lisa Bowman. Bowman said United Way won't know until later this year how it fared for its 2018-19 fiscal year, but she noted that traditional nonprofits face many new challenges, including competition from online crowdfunding operations such as GoFundMe. Among the nine charitable

sectors identified by Giving USA, there were mixed results. Donations were up for nonprofits involved in international affairs and environmental or animal-welfare issues. Giving to foundations was down, as was giving to education, to religion and to public-society benefit organizations — groups which work on such issues as voter education, civil rights, civil liberties and consumer rights.

Giving to religion — perennially the biggest sector — is estimated to have declined by 1.5% in 2018 (a decrease of 3.9% adjusted for inflation), with a total of \$124.52 billion in contributions. Una Osili, an associate dean at the Lilly philanthropy school, said giving to religious institutions has been lagging behind other sectors for several years. Reasons including declining attendance at church services and a rising number of Americans not affiliated with any particular religion. For the largest U.S. denomination — the Roman Catholic Church — a long-running clergy sex-abuse crisis also has taken a financial toll. According to a recent Pew Research Center survey, about one-fourth of U.S. Catholics have decreased donations to the church because of the scandals. □

Interest rates are down, so is it time to refinance?

By SARAH SKIDMORE SELL

Associated Press

Interest rates for mortgages are low — really low.

As of the first week of June, long-term mortgage rates were down for the sixth consecutive week. The 30-year fixed rate average was below 4 percent, its lowest point since September 2017. If you're a homeowner, you may be wondering if now's the time to refinance.

Here's what to consider:

REASON

It's important to know why you want to refinance.

Some people simply want to take advantage of lower rates so they pay less over the course of their loan or to pay it off faster.



This April 13, 2019, file photo, shows homes in suburban Salt Lake City.

Others want to lower their monthly payment. Some desire a better product, such as getting out of an adjustable rate mortgage into a fixed loan.

Others may have seen their financial situation improve since they bought their home and now qualify for better terms.

Associated Press

And some may want to cash out some equity from their homes.

Before you agree to refinance, make sure it meets that goal.

RATES

Yes, rates are low but they were very low in the years following the recession too. So some homeowners may

have already refinanced once already. If you are considering another round, remember that unless you move into a shorter-term loan, you are essentially starting the clock anew on paying off your home, warns Sarah Mikhitarian, a senior economist at Zillow. However, she notes that people who bought in the past year or two when rates started to climb may want to run the numbers on refinancing.

"These rates and this moment are fleeting and unpredictable," said Rick Bechtel, head of US Residential Lending at TD Bank. Bechtel said that lenders are busy with both an uptick in refinancing and

completing loans for the spring home-buying season, so make sure your lock-in period allows enough time to complete the process, around 45 to 60 days.

COSTS

Refinancing comes with some expenses, typically between \$2,000 and \$3,000 in various closing costs. You can pay those out of pocket or have them rolled into the balance of the new loan.

Some banks may waive the cost of the fees in exchange for a slightly higher rate on the loan itself.

You may face added costs for certain state taxes that might not be factored into all mortgage calculators either, Bechtel noted. □

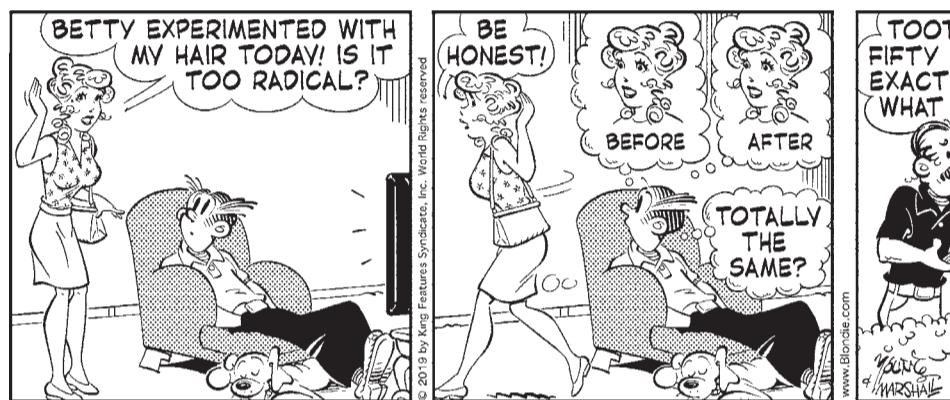
Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku



Difficulty Level ★★★

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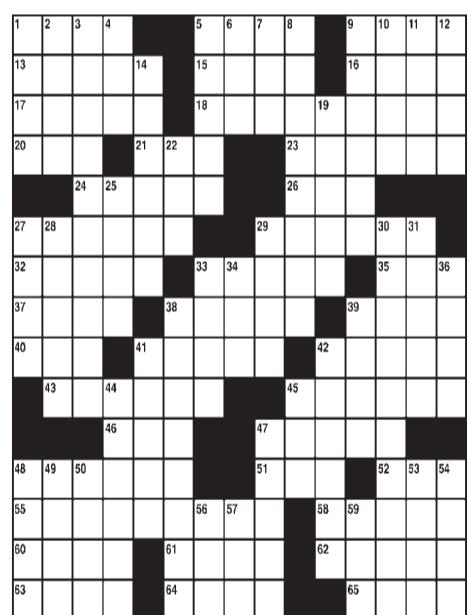
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3	2	6	7	1	9	5	8	4
7	9	5	4	8	3	2	6	1
1	8	4	2	6	5	3	7	9
9	1	7	3	2	6	8	4	5
6	4	2	8	5	1	9	3	7
8	5	3	9	4	7	1	2	6

Yesterday's puzzle answer

6/19

ACROSS

1 Quarrel
5 Read over quickly
9 Red Muppet
13 More pleasant
15 Not vivid in color
16 Hockey score
17 Male relative
18 Plato's famous pupil
20 "Wow!"
21 Saloon
23 Licorice sticks
24 Gets closer to
26 Fleur-de-
27 Spin
29 Champion
32 Sudden & sharp, as pain
33 Complain childishly
35 Soft drink
37 Tiny veggies
38 Antler feature
39 ___ on; incite
40 Tit for ___
41 Battle
42 Zodiac sign
43 Isaac or Wayne
45 Free-for-alls
46 Coop dweller
47 Slacks
48 1 of 13 on the U.S. flag
51 Recipe verb
52 Plant
55 Mentor
58 Popeye's love
60 Chief Norse deity
61 Watercraft
62 Fray
63 Actor Randall
64 Fluctuate
65 Repair
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112 ___



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/19/19

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

LO	S	A	T	R	I	P	S	T	A	B
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G	R	I	P	P	A	G	E	T	R	U
S	T	A	L	E	M	A	T	E	I	R
R	E	A	P							
A	M	O	R							
M	W	O	E							
O	S	A	I							

6/19/19

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7 Actress MacGraw
8 Baby bird
9 Self-centered person
10 Plenty
11 Sweet creamy drink
12 Bullring shouts
14 Partial refund
19 Once and again
22 TV's "The Kids ___ Alright"
25 Polishes off
27 Engrossed
28 Body of water
29 Grape bearer
30 Tyrannical
31 Baton ___ LA
33 Songbird
34 Road ___; inconsiderate driver
36 Experts
38 Covered wagon travelers
39 Sandy residue
41 ___ down; resigns one's post
42 Peddler
44 Neigh softly
45 Crazy
47 Shindig
48 Dumfries resident
49 Hustle & bustle
50 Wreck
53 Dutch ___
54 Actress Tuesday
56 Regulation
57 "Scent ___ Woman"; Al Pacino film
59 On the ___; fleeing

Police: Arizona man beheads roommate's dog as she moves out

Associated Press

BUCKEYE, Ariz. (AP) — An Arizona man has been arrested on suspicion of mutilating and beheading his roommate's dog as she moved out of the home that the two shared in a Phoenix suburb.

Jose Vega Meza, 21, told investigators that he killed the dog on Saturday because his roommate owed rent money to his mother, who owns the home in the city of Buckeye, police said.

The man's roommate told police she lost track of her dog as she moved out her belongings and saw Vega Meza trying to sneak a box onto her truck.

The roommate opened the box to discover the headless dog inside.

Police could not immediately provide information about the dog's breed but said it was small.

She was so distraught that she was unable to call authorities until the next day. Vega Meza told investigators that he killed other animals around his neighborhood, including a cat he said he drowned, police said in court documents.

He was booked on suspicion of animal cruelty stemming from the killing of the dog on Saturday. □



Editor
Caribbean Speed Printers N.V.
Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668
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Assistant Director
Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors
Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales
Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds
classified@cspnv.com

Distribution and Collection
accounting@bondia.com

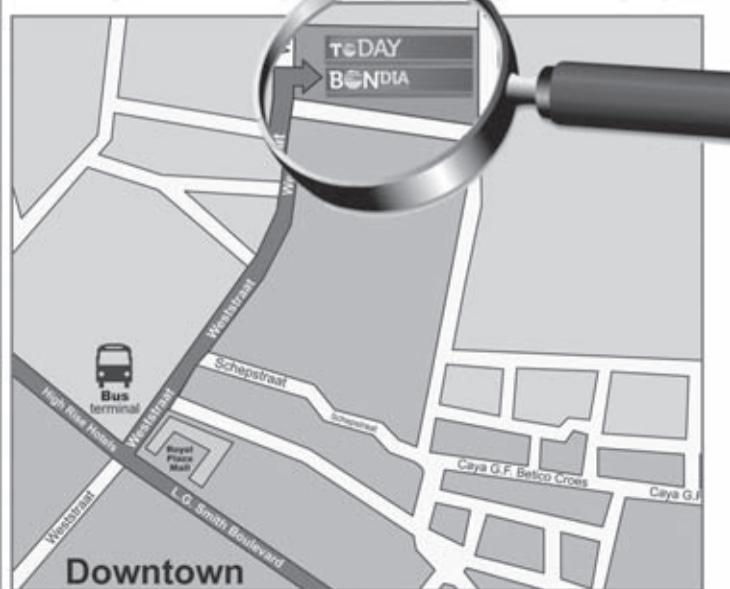
Social / Website
Cristian Soto Garcia
Pilar Flores
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Columnists
Anthony Croes
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Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Frances
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Weststraat 22
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Overflowing Great Lakes pose new threat for endangered bird

By JOHN FLESHER

AP Environmental Writer

GLEN HAVEN, Mich. (AP) —

Peering through a spotting scope mounted on a tripod, researcher Alice Van Zoeren notices a piping plover skittering across a sandy, pebble-strewn Lake Michigan beach and hopping into a nest, swapping places with its mate.

"Nest exchange! Did you see it?" Van Zoeren calls to colleagues. Male and female plovers take turns incubating their eggs, and this pair's flawless changing of the guard is a healthy sign.

Yet trouble is brewing for them — and for other piping plovers, already one of the Great Lakes region's most endangered species — as water levels surge during a rain-soaked spring that has flooded large areas of the Midwest.

Pools are forming behind several nests along this beach at Michigan's Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. And the big lake — gray and slightly rippling on an overcast, breezy morning — has crept within a few yards of the plovers' nesting zone. Their home could be one storm away from destruction. And this is one of the most hospitable spots for the plump, sparrow-sized shorebirds. Conditions are worse in some places.

The Great Lakes are reaching some of their highest levels since the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began keeping records 101 years ago. Streets, businesses and houses have flooded. Many beaches are shrinking or submerged. For tourist-oriented businesses and waterfront homeowners accustomed to wide expanses of sand, that's a



In this May 30, 2019 photo, a sign warns visitors of a piping plover nesting area in Glen Haven, Mich.

worrisome development. For piping plovers, it's a mortal threat. Squeezed out of familiar turf, they move closer to places with trees and underbrush, where predators lurk, or even flee to urban areas. A pair recently took up residence on one of Chicago's busiest Lake Michigan beaches.

"The high water levels really put them in danger more than most other species because their habitat has been greatly diminished," said Vince Cavalieri, piping plover coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Some nests on the Canadian side of the lakes

have been swept away, he said.

The Great Lakes generally rise with the snowmelt and rainstorms of spring and dip during later dry spells. Those minor fluctuations happen within larger high and low periods that can last years. But some scientists believe climate change is causing more frequent and intense shifts. Lakes Huron and Michigan hit record low levels in 2013 amid a lengthy slump. An abrupt turnaround followed. Bitter winters froze lake surfaces and limited evaporation, while snowfall and spring downpours got heavier. As parts of the nation's mid-section flooded this year, the lakes filled to the brim.

University of Michigan hydrologist Drew Gronewold and climate scientist Richard Rood concluded in a recent article that "rapid transitions between extreme high and low water levels in the Great Lakes represent the 'new normal.'"

If so, the piping plovers' situation could become more precarious. Their numbers already have plummeted with shoreline development. The federal government lists them as threatened in the northern Great Plains and along the Atlantic coast, where rising sea levels imperil their wintering grounds. But the Great Lakes population is endangered, hitting a low of just 12 breeding pairs in 1990.

Recovery projects are helping: 76 pairs were counted in 2017 and 67 last year. This year's census is still underway but expected to yield similar results, said Cavalieri of the fish and wildlife service.

The next few weeks are crucial. Most of this year's eggs will hatch by the end of June. If additional storms don't wash away nests, a new batch of youngsters may survive.

But long-term prospects will be dicey until the waters recede.

Piping plovers are a migratory species, breeding during summers in the northern U.S. and Canada and heading south to winter in coastal areas from the Carolinas to Texas.

Once settled in, they spend lots of time on the ground — building nests, guarding eggs, darting about in search of food such as insects, spiders and crustaceans. Their plumage, a mixture of light browns and grays with a black collar, provides camouflage.

At Sleeping Bear Dunes, home to nearly half of the Great Lakes plovers during spring and summer, breeding grounds are roped off and posted with keep-out signs. Nests are topped with cage-like enclosures that bar entry to predatory merlins, gulls, raccoons, foxes and coyotes but leave enough space between the wires for the plovers to enter and exit.

Unleashed dogs are the biggest problem, said Erica Adams, a National Park Service plover specialist. They've been known to spook the birds so badly that they abandon their nests.

In addition to serving as security guards, professionals and volunteers can perform emergency rescues if flooding is imminent.

Van Zoeren, a research assistant with a University of Minnesota team that bands plovers, recently removed eggs from a nearby island as a storm rolled in. They were stored in an incubation machine at the Sleeping Bear Dunes headquarters and returned to the nest after the lake calmed.

Even if the birds aren't flooded out, the rising waters make their lives harder. "It's forcing them to use the same areas as birds they might not be used to neighboring with," Adams said. "That increases competition, especially for the chicks that hatch this year. If they don't have enough food, enough space to forage, they won't have enough calories to make the journey down south." □

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Sunnei to Palm Angels, streetwear in fashion focus in Milan

By COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Youthful dressing and streetwear were in focus on the third day of Milan Fashion Week previews of (mostly) menswear for next spring and summer.

It's a game of sophisticated materials and edgy styling, of pushing boundaries and reaching for that increasingly significant, but typically not economically independent young customer.

Highlights on Sunday included Palm Angels, DSquared, Sunnei, John Richmond and Missoni.

SUNNEI ZEN

Sunnei took a leap in sophistication with its co-ed collection featuring highly researched materials and calm, Zen-like styling.

For the unveiling, founders Loris Messina and Simone Rizzo brought the fashion crowd to the white-washed concrete of a future public art space beneath a disused overpass in Milan.

Providing a snapshot of the 4-year-old brand's technical sophistication, the looks included textured yet translucent knitwear, which from the front row looked soft as a sponge. On closer inspection, the outside of the designs felt resistant and a little bit scratchy.

The super-light knitwear lent itself to layering - over knit pants for men and a long knit dress or skirt for women. There were matching knitwear duffels, and maxi bags took on the micro-bag trend shown on other runways.

While cargo pants come in for some disparagement, the designers embraced their utility without worrying that stuffed compartments would ruin the line. In fact, the male silhouette was boxy, with oversized shirts over wide fitting shorts.

Short denim jumpsuits were wide enough to suggest a dress and ensure comfort, while a lemon yellow belted jacket created a male peplum over a matching cargo trouser. Tie-back caps finished the looks.

For women, there were su-



Models wear creations as part of the Sunnei men's Spring-Summer 2020 collection, unveiled during the fashion week in Milan, Italy, Sunday, June 16, 2019.

Associated Press

per wide elephant pants that could be worn with ruched bandeau tops, perhaps layered with a sheer tunic. Satiny skirt outfits came cinched with scrunchy belts that gave a springy feel. Models wore platform sandals that added as much as 5 inches (12 centimeters) in height.

Rizzo and Messina declared wryly on one pull-over vest, "I HATE 'FASHION.'" The phrase clearly meant someone who tries too hard. The pair achieved the ultimate ease in Milan.

JOHN RICHMOND TAPS 1980S DNA

He's a biker or a punker, unafraid to wear a 1980s skirt or to layer trousers or shorts with fishnets.

John Richmond says the young man of today is ready for anything. And for Spring/Summer 2020, Richmond dipped back into his archive to bring back the punk skirt that graced the 1984 cover of Britain's The Face magazine, earning him a place in fashion history.

The updated cotton version comes in straightforward gray and khaki, worn with showy coordinated bombers with panels of snakeskin print or metallic detailing.

"Kids nowadays wear anything. You know they've broken all the rules. So you get guys wearing jeans which are hardly there. It's all changed," Richmond said.

Snakes and snakeskin prints were the chief motifs of the

co-ed collection - but no snakeskin itself. The collection featured architectural shoulders for her, accented by a cinched waist and flow-

ing, pleated trousers for undulating movement. She might add a skin-fitting tattoo top that Richmond said was "a montage of iconography, with rings and Bowie and all kinds of things." There were slinkier looks for evening, including a sequined snake slithering suggestively over the shoulder. Richmond has an eye on sustainability in his broader collection, and says it is easier to find eco-polyester. The looks in stores - not on the runway - will include reused vintage.

Part of the philosophy includes using footwear that is on the market. Here, Richmond collaborated with Converse for men's high-tops finished in sequins and studs with snakes or JR insignia. Richmond has

been relaunching his historic brand after losing control in a business dispute for two seasons. He says it is now growing each season and as part of his latest chapter, he plans to open stores in Milan and Dubai this year and Malaysia next year.

MARCELO BURLON GIVES AN EASY RIDE

Argentine designer Marcelo Burlon's County of Milan collection brought together extremes of technical active wear and tailored suits.

The looks included Lycra running tops worn with a chino and topped with a bucket hat as easily as with runner's leggings and a flat runner's pack or with a notched suit jacket and matching trousers. □

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'Gosh!' Cult comedy 'Napoleon Dynamite' turns 15

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The cult comedy Napoleon Dynamite turns 15 years old this month, a milestone for a movie that became an early breakaway hit in today's era of pop-culture geek celebration.

The movie created the "Vote for Pedro" T-shirt and made Napoleon's disgusted version of "gosh!" into a 2004 catchphrase.

Made for just \$400,000 by a group of recently graduated Brigham Young University film students, it would ultimately gross more than \$46 million after its June 2004 release. A word-of-mouth hit before Twitter and Facebook took off, it was part of a handful of independent comedies that took off in the early 2000s.

"Napoleon Dynamite" tells the story of its curly-headed, socially awkward title



This 2004 photo provided by Twentieth Century Fox and Paramount Pictures shows Jon Gries, as Uncle Rico, from left, Jon Heder, as Napoleon Dynamite, and Aaron Ruell, as Kip, in a scene from movie "Napoleon Dynamite."

Associated Press

character who ultimately triumphs over the high school jocks and cheerleaders because of his quirks, rather than in spite of them.

Its success added to a rising profile for the world's unapologetic nerds at the beginning of a new wave of geek glory. "The Big Bang Theory," would debut a few years later and become television's top-rated sitcom, while comic book movies achieved box office dominance.

The husband and wife team

of Jared and Jerusha Hess mined true-to-life oddball high school moments, from a musical sign language club to puffy-sleeved dresses for school dances. There were also nods to rural life in the tiny city of Preston, Idaho, like the much-quoted line drawn from Napoleon's mealtime call to the family llama: "Tina, you fat lard, come get some dinner." The combination struck comedic gold.

"I think the legacy of the movie is how original it is," said Glenn Williamson, an

independent film producer and lecturer at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Theater, Film and Television. "I like to think something else like that would find an audience today, because I do think people respond to that authentic freshness."

Shot in just over three weeks, the movie made a splash at the Sundance Film Festival even though it was submitted before director Jared Hess thought it was ready. But producer Jeremy Coon said he knew they had something special from the first edit.

"All of us were starving students coming out of school. A lot was riding on it," said Coon, who borrowed the money to make the movie from his brother.

Fox Searchlight snapped it up for nearly \$5 million, a princely sum at the time. It started off relatively small in theaters, but with clever marketing and word of mouth, people kept coming back. Nearly three months after its release, it was still earning just as much money per theater, said Bruce Nash, founder and publisher of The Numbers, a movie industry tracking website. □

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MIB INTERNATIONAL WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU 5:45 | 8:20
FRI 5:45 | 8:20 | 10:55
SAT 3:10 | 5:45 | 8:20 | 10:55
SUN 3:10 | 5:45 | 8:20

MON-FRI 1:05

CXC

MON-THU 5:30 | 8:00
FRI 5:30 | 8:00 | 10:30
SAT 3:00 | 5:30 | 8:00 | 10:30
SUN 3:00 | 5:30 | 8:00

MON-THU 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20
FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SAT 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SUN 1:50 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20

FRI-SAT 10:45

MON-FRI 4:45
SAT-SUN 2:14 | 4:45

TONY JAA | TIGER HU CHEN

TRIPLE THREAT

MON-THU 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35
FRI 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SAT 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35 | 11:45
SUN 3:05 | 5:15 | 7:25 | 9:35

PATTON OSWALD | KEVIN HART

PETS 2 WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-THU 5:25 | 7:30
FRI 5:25 | 7:30 | 10:25
SAT 1:15 | 3:15 | 5:25 | 7:30 | 10:25
SUN 1:15 | 3:15 | 5:25 | 7:30

MON-THU 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40
FRI 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40
SAT 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40 | 10:40
SUN 2:40 | 4:40 | 6:40 | 8:40

MON-THU 3:50 | 5:50 | 7:50
FRI 3:50 | 5:50 | 7:50 | 10:00
SAT 1:50 | 3:50 | 5:50 | 7:50 | 10:00
SUN 1:50 | 3:50 | 5:50 | 7:50

WILL SMITH | MENA MASSOUD

Aladdin WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

MON-FRI 5:50 | 8:40
SAT-SUN 3:00 | 5:50 | 8:40

MON-THU 4:55 | 7:40 | 10:25
FRI 4:55 | 7:40 | 10:25
SAT 2:10 | 4:55 | 7:40 | 10:25
SUN 2:10 | 4:55 | 7:40

X-MEN DARK PHOENIX

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13)

MON-FRI 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25
SAT-SUN 1:40 | 4:15 | 6:50 | 9:25

MON-THU 5:45 | 8:20
FRI 5:45 | 8:20 | 10:55
SAT 3:10 | 5:45 | 8:20 | 10:55
SUN 3:10 | 5:45 | 8:20

KEANU REEVES | HALLE BERRY

JOHN WICK CHAPTER 3 PARABELLUM

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (R)

MON-THU 5:35 | 8:30
FRI 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:00
SAT 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30 | 11:00
SUN 2:40 | 5:35 | 8:30

OCTAVIA SPENCER | DIANA SILVERS

MA WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (R)

MON-THU & SUN 7:15 | 9:35
FRI-SAT 7:15 | 9:35 | 11:55

VERA FARMIGA | MILLIE BOBBY BROWN

GODZILLA KING OF THE MONSTERS WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (PG-13)

MON-SUN 3:40 | 6:25

TARON EGERTON | JAMIE BELL

ROCKETMAN WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES (R)

MON-FRI 9:10

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Hollywood Vampires rise again on great 2nd album



In this Feb. 15, 2016 file photo, from left to right, Johnny Depp, Joe Perry, and Alice Cooper of The Hollywood Vampires arrive at the 58th annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By WAYNE PARRY

Associated Press

Hollywood Vampires, "Rise" (earMUSIC) When Alice Cooper, Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry and movie star Johnny Depp formed a

band in 2015 to pay homage to dead drinking buddies, it might have seemed like a pleasant diversion, a one-off lark for otherwise busy artists. But that first album, with its

covers of classic rock songs mainly by artists who died from drug or alcohol use, was so good that it merited a second effort once everyone could find the time. That time is now, only this time the Vamps dish up mostly new material. "Rise" starts with the insistent "I Want My Now," as good a song as Cooper has recorded in years, and "Mr. Spider" is a creepy heir to "The Black Widow." Cooper usually can't resist throwing in a tongue-in-cheek novelty track written from the perspective of some offbeat character on society's margins, and this time its "Welcome to Bushwhackers," about an angry old man at a bar spoiling for a fight; it features a guitar cameo from Jeff Beck. □

The Rock and other stars promote positivity at MTV awards

By KATIE CAMPIONE

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson didn't make a household name for himself by conforming to someone else's idea of who he should be, an approach he encouraged others to take while accepting a top honor at the MTV Movie & TV Awards.

The actor, producer and former professional wrestler said embracing himself allowed him to carve his own space in the entertainment industry and become one of its biggest stars.

He accepted MTV's generation award with fanfare — running down the stage amidst a blend of hip-hop and Samoan dancers with screens reading "The Rock" in flaming letters behind him — during the show, which was taped Saturday in Santa Monica, California, and aired Monday night.

"The most powerful thing we can be is ourselves," said Johnson, who is half-black and half-Samoan. He also reminded the audience of its responsibility to reach back for others in the midst of success.

Johnson, 47, wasn't the only one to use his platform during the show for empowerment.



Dwayne Johnson, also known as The Rock, accepts the generation award at the MTV Movie and TV Awards on Saturday, June 15, 2019, at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, Calif.

Associated Press

Brie Larson, who won the best fight award for her battle against Minn-Erva (Gemma Chan) in "Captain Marvel," brought her stunt doubles, Joanna Bennett and Renae Money-maker, on stage to recognize them for their work. "They are the living embodiment of Captain Marvel," Larson said as she stepped aside to let the women give speeches in which they thanked the actress for the rare acknowledgement on an awards show stage.

Inclusivity and celebration

seemed to be the themes of the night.

The show included with a comedic take on a scene from Jordan Peele's "Us," featuring host Zachary Levi. Levi reminded everyone to nurture the kid in themselves and keep following their dreams into adulthood. Lizzo and Bazzi kept the crowd on its feet during their lively musical performances of "Juice" and "Paradise," respectively. The upbeat nature of the night didn't stop some winners from getting serious.

Lana Condor managed to bring thoughtfulness to one of the night's more amusing awards.

"Kiss who you want to kiss. Love who you want to love, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise," she said, accepting the best kiss honor with "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" co-star Noah Centineo, who also won for breakthrough performance.

Daniel Levy shared a similar sentiment after winning the best comedic performance award for "Schitt's

Creek." "If I've taken anything away from making 'Schitt's Creek,' it's that kindness always wins, and love is best served unconditionally," he said, wishing everyone a happy pride month.

Jada Pinkett Smith accepted the trailblazer award, presented to her by "Girls Trip" co-star Tiffany Haddish, and assured attendees that each of them are trailblazing by leading the way and fighting for others. Women took home several of the night's biggest awards, including best performance in a show (Elisabeth Moss, "The Handmaid's Tale") and in a movie (Lady Gaga, "A Star is Born"). The show features gender-neutral categories.

Sandra Bullock touched the audience during her speech for most frightened performance for "Bird Box." The Oscar winner said she made the film for her kids after they asked when she would make a movie for them.

Accepting the award from "Wonder Woman" star Gal Gadot, Bullock said that when her kids are old enough to watch the post-apocalyptic thriller, she hopes it will show them the lengths she is willing to go for them. □

Mariska Hargitay: Haven't been in touch with Linda Fairstein

By MESFIN FEKADU

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — "Law &

Order: SVU" star Mariska Hargitay says she hasn't been in touch with friend Linda Fairstein since the former "Central Park Five" prosecutor was dropped by her publisher, though the actress acknowledged Fairstein resigned from the board of a charity she founded.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Hargitay said, "No, I have not talked to her. She did resign from my board." Fairstein was on the board of Hargitay's Joyful Heart Foundation, which assists survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse. In an op-ed last week in The Wall Street Journal, Fairstein



This photo combo shows from left, actress Mariska Hargitay and former prosecutor Linda Fairstein.

Associated Press

condemned how she is portrayed in the Netflix series "When They See Us." Directed by Ava DuVernay, it tells of the wrongful conviction of five black and Latino teenagers for the 1989 assault on a white female jogger in Central Park. Fairstein, who head-

serial rapist Matias Reyes confessed to committing the crime alone, and his DNA was linked to it.

Fairstein would go on to become a best-selling author of mystery novels.

Fallout from the Netflix show has led to her being dropped by her book publisher, Dutton. Fairstein also resigned as a Board of Trustees member at Vassar College and from the victims-services agency, Safe Horizon. Hargitay spoke about Fairstein last Friday while promoting the documentary "Emmanuel," about the mass shooting that killed nine black worshippers in Charleston, South Carolina four years ago. Hartigay is the co-producer of the film. When asked about her re-

lationship with Fairstein, Hartigay said she's "known (Linda) for a long time" and was introduced to her by "Law & Order" creator Dick Wolf. "Twenty years ago, while I was still leading what is now known as the Special Victims Unit, I had a call from Dick Wolf, creator of the Law and Order television series. He was in pre-production of a spinoff that he called 'Law and Order: SVU.' He wasn't asking me to be part of his team, but he was hoping I would spend time with two of his leading actors — Mariska Hargitay and Stephanie March — to explain our work," Fairstein wrote. "Not only did I enjoy that opportunity, but it was the start of two friendships I cherish to this day." □

Rocket City, Alabama: Space history and an eye on the future

By MARCIA DUNN

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (AP) — The birthplace of NASA's rockets lies in the land of cotton, hundreds of miles from Cape Canaveral's launch pads.

From the first U.S. satellites and astronauts, to the Apollo moon shots, to the space shuttles and now NASA's still-in-development Space Launch System, rocket history inundates Huntsville, Alabama.

Huntsville's nickname, Rocket City, is thanks largely to Wernher von Braun and his team of fellow German-born rocketeers who settled here in the 1950s. The city has long been home to the Army's Redstone Arsenal and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. But now it's attracting new generations of engineers, scientists and techies. Tourists come for the history. Kids and adults come to learn at Space Camp.

It was von Braun, Marshall's first director, who wanted to showcase Huntsville's rocket development and testing. Thus was born the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, an official NASA tourist spot that houses one of only three remaining Saturn V moon rockets, this one a National Historic Landmark.

Von Braun planted the seed for Space Camp as well. Why band camp, football camp and cheer-leading camp, but no science camp, he wondered. He didn't live long enough to see Space Camp open in 1982 at the rocket center, but since then, 800,000 youngsters and grown-up



In this July 13, 2018 photo, the last standing Saturn V rocket can be seen at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

space fans have attended daylong, weekend or weeklong sessions with space, robotics and aviation themes.

Its address? One Tranquility Base, Huntsville. As in "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed," words spoken by astronaut Neil Armstrong when he landed on the moon with Buzz Aldrin. The 50th anniversary of those first moon steps is next July. Huntsville plans to shoot up thousands of little rockets in commemoration.

The DNA from America's original rocket force still permeates Huntsville, according to Deborah Barnhart, the U.S. Space and Rocket Center's executive director. It's Alabama's No. 1 paid tourist attraction, with bus tours into the restricted Redstone and Marshall, and wild rocket-style rides like Space Shot and G-Force Accelerator.

"We're all space geeks and we love it," Barnhart said. But Huntsville isn't just about history. Ongoing re-

search aims to return astronauts to the moon and on to Mars. "We're looking to the future, really looking to travel in space, trying to figure out the problems of living and working in space," Barnhart said.

Despite Huntsville's role, author Homer Hickam, a longtime Huntsville resident who's now retired from NASA, sees Cape Canaveral, Florida, and Houston getting most of the attention when it comes to space travel. Hickam's 1998 memoir "Rocket Boys" became the movie "October Sky." "You look at all this whole great big Saturn V, and the only part that Houston was responsible for was, I don't know. This little part right here," Hickam said, laughing, as he pointed to the capsule at the tip of the 363-foot-long rocket, stretching horizontally in its massive exhibit hall.

German-style beer gardens are hosted beneath the Saturn V every Thursday evening, spring to fall. Engineers and their families

mobbed a recent one. Beverages included T-Minus, a locally made, tangerine-flavored beer. Monkeynaut brew is also a favorite.

"It's probably the most scientific small town in America," said retired Apollo program worker Billy Neal, a volunteer docent who shed his white lab coat for that night's Biergarten.

Miss Baker, the squirrel monkey who preceded Mercury astronauts into space in 1959, is buried at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center. Space Campers sometimes leave bananas at her tombstone.

Nearly 1,000 campers from around the globe swarmed the rocket center during a typical week this summer. They launched small rockets and got the feel of walking in space while dangling from the ceiling in harnesses or scuba diving in a water tank smaller but similar to what astronauts once used for practice. They were strapped into a mock cockpit coming in for a Mars landing and sat

behind computers as flight controllers for the Mars mission. They even live in dormitories that look as though they belong on the moon or Mars. Camp counselors — called crew trainers — are mostly university students or recent graduates in STEM fields — science, technology, engineering or math. In July, campers got to meet the first Space Camp graduate to actually launch into space, Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger. She attended a Space Academy for older students the same month that shuttle Discovery delivered the Hubble Space Telescope to orbit in 1990. She went on to fly aboard Discovery in 2010 as a NASA astronaut-educator.

Space Camp's simulations are "as realistic as they can be for what's done in a week," she said. "We can't train kids on a whole bunch of switches and circuit breakers and systems, but we can give them the big idea."

Her goal is to help campers "see that what they were doing this week isn't so very different than what we did in the program and how it prepares you for real space ... and then also to hopefully impart some things like all of us are going to go through rough times, but there are ways to stay plugged in."

As Metcalf-Lindenburger shook hands with each of the nearly 1,000 graduates at week's end, another Space Camp graduate, Serena Aunon-Chancellor, orbited Earth aboard the International Space Station. The roster of Space Camp alumni includes many other engineers and scientists, among them two others who lived on the space station and SpaceX founder Elon Musk, who attended as an adult during his early tech days.

"This is a thinly veiled workforce development program," Barnhart said. "We're trying to inspire people in STEM. We're trying to inspire aviation-oriented people" as well as robotics and cyber-security specialists. □



In this July 13, 2018 photo, visitors tour the Orion modules in the space camp program at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Associated Press



In this July 13, 2018 photo, NASA astronaut Dottie Metcalf discusses space travel and her experiences in space at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala.

Associated Press